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ALSO DID YOU REMEMBER TO PUT YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR LAST NIGHT?

'DOLE-ON-SEA' THREAT FROM BENEFITS CAP

MP fearing an influx of low-income families moving to coastal towns after spending cut

By MARIJKE COX

KENT could see a return of the 'dole-on-sea' days as a cap on housing benefit threatens to force claimants out of London and into the county's towns.

MPs fear low-income families who are no longer able to afford to stay in privately rented property in the city will instead move to cheap accommodation in Kent, particularly around the coastal towns, but also in areas with lower rental fees.

North Thanet Conservative MP Roger Gale has written to housing minister Grant Shapps and employment minister Chris Grayling to address the situation.

He said: "I absolutely endorse the fundamental policy to curtail housing benefits – it's offensive for people who are working and paying taxes to pay for accommodation they can't afford to have themselves.

"Having said that, I remember in the early 1980s we had the 'dole-on-sea' phenomenon when people moved from inner city London to live in bed and breakfasts and poorer accommodation by the sea where they would remain unemployed. We can't let that happen again."

Under changes announced by Chancellor George Osborne, from April next year housing benefit will be capped at £400 a week for a four-bedroom house, £340 for a three-bedroom, £290 for two bedrooms and £250 for a one-bedroom property.

Mr Gale said he and his Tory colleagues in the county fear London boroughs will send their problem tenants who are unable to afford to continue living in the city to Kent and burden local authorities.

Reports suggest some boroughs are already in talks with private landlords outside the capital, although Mr Gale could not confirm this had happened in Kent.

"In the past we have experienced cases of some boroughs offering to pay private rental fees for a few months in order to transfer homeless families from their own housing waiting lists to those of, in this case, Thanet District Council," he said.

The senior backbencher, who was vice-chairman of the Conservative party from 2001 to 2003, is urging the Government to bring in legislation to make sure London boroughs

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

Picture: ROB BERRY

Camilla's salute to The Few

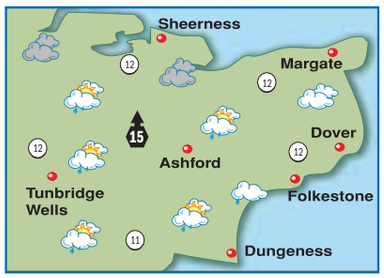
THE Duchess of Cornwall meets with the oldest surviving Battle of Britain Spitfire pilot at a poignant service commemorating war hero Sir Keith Park.

Camilla's royal visit to Kent on Thursday saw her unveil a bust of the air chief marshal, who has been credited as one of the men whose leadership and vision helped deny Luftwaffe victory 70 years ago.

Ninety-seven-year-old William Walker met with the duchess at the event, held at the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust at Capel-le-Ferne, near Dover.

* Includes all surcharges and taxes. See website for details and full terms and conditions.

Kent today



TODAY: A mainly dry and bright day with sunny intervals and variable amounts of cloud. However, the odd shower is possible. Gentle southerly winds. Max temp 10-13C (50-55F). **TONIGHT:** Dry with clear spells. However, a few mist and fog patches will develop. Min temp 6-9C (43-48F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	showers	11	52	London	cloudy	14	57
Belfast	showers	10	50	Liverpool	rain	12	54
Birmingham	rain	12	54	Manchester	showers	12	54
B'mouth	showers	14	57	Newcastle	showers	11	52
Bristol	showers	13	55	Norwich	cloudy	13	55
Cardiff	showers	13	55	Oxford	showers	13	55
Cork	rain	10	50	Southsea	showers	14	57
Edinburgh	showers	11	52	S'hampton	showers	13	55
Glasgow	showers	11	52	Southport	rain	12	54
Isle of Man	showers	12	54	Swansea	showers	12	54
Leeds	showers	10	50	Torquay	showers	13	55

Sun & moon

Sunrise	6.47am	Sunset	4.30pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	–	Moonset	1.42pm	4.30pm to 6.49am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)
Dover	04.32	5.6	17.18	5.5	05.57	5.7	18.42	5.7
Margate	05.12	4.0	18.05	4.1	06.30	4.0	19.30	4.3
St Mary's	10.33	4.6	23.23	4.5	11.56	4.8	–	–

Week ahead

monday The odd shower. max 13C min7C

thursday Largely sunny. max 16C min 10C

tuesday Dry and bright. max 14C min 11C

friday Wet and windy. max 15C min 9C

wednesday Dull. Light rain. max 15C min 10C

saturday Mostly fine. max 15C min 8C

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Gallery's budget cut before it even opens

THE much-anticipated Turner Contemporary gallery is to have its running costs cut by more than £34,000 as the Government reduces funding for the arts, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

In a plan outlined by Arts Council England, which is to have its budget cut by £100 million over the next four years, the Margate development was named as one of hundreds of projects across the UK to be affected.

Funding of £497,500 will be slashed by £34,328 for 2011/12.

Canterbury Festival was also on the hit-list, with a reduction of £24,133 down to £325,620, and Stour Valley Arts in Ashford will see a cut of £4,537 to £61,214.

A Turner Contemporary spokeswoman said the Comprehensive Spending Review will have no impact on the completion of the gallery, expected to be finished later this year in readiness for the opening in 2011, but running costs could be affected.

"The total cost for the design, build and fitting out of the gallery is £17.4m, the majority of which is being met through a partnership of public funding from Kent County Council (£6.4m), Arts Council England (£4.1m) and South East England Development Agency (£4m)," she said.

"Turner Contemporary Art Trust has been established to raise £2.9m from the private sector. This funding has already been committed and work on the gallery is scheduled for completion later in 2010."

The spokeswoman said running costs at the gallery are approximately £2.2m a year, with 85 per cent of its funding coming from KCC and Arts Council England.

Fifteen per cent will be generated through commercial opportunities.

Impact

She added: "We are in close contact with both KCC and Arts Council England over the potential impact the Comprehensive Spending Review will have on our running costs. We will know more when these organisations publish their response to the announcement.

"However, both remain key partners in the development of Turner Contemporary and share our vision of creating a spectacular new cultural and social centre for Margate, Kent and the wider South East region."

The announcement of the funding cuts follows the launch of a major new collaborative arts initiative called Plus Tate, involving the Turner Contemporary.

The scheme, which was launched by culture minister Jeremy Hunt at the Tate Modern last week, beings together 18 of the UK's most dynamic arts institutions to deepen engagement in modern and contemporary art.

Tate director Nicholas Serota said: "Working in partnership, collaborating closely with leading organisations that have high national and international profiles and strong links to their local communities, means we can support their further development and strengthen their hand by sharing with them Tate's resources and collection."

Victoria Pomery, director of Turner Contemporary, also welcomed the initiative.

She said: "We see the Plus Tate partnership as a huge support, acting as a platform through which we can share and exchange ideas and information with peer institutions and providing welcome access to Tate's own expertise, experience and collection."

We'll feel the pressure of benefits seekers

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

have approval from the receiving authority before moving tenants.

Mr Gale said: "Local councils have to be given more control. Social housing is already in desperately short supply.

"Kent does not have the resources to cope with being inundated with benefit claimants from the city – it would put a strain on schools, on health, on policing and on social care."

He added that the need for housing could increase the number of absentee landlords failing to maintain safe standards.

Dover and Deal MP Charlie Elphicke, Thanet South MP Laura Sandys, MP for Canterbury Julian Brazier and Folkestone and Hythe MP Damian Collins have all expressed the same concerns, according to Mr Gale.

Simon Nunn, head of the south region for the National Housing Federation, warned there would be a real impact on all of Kent.

"The change in housing benefit means people will no longer be able to live in central London and local authorities there will look for places where there is a large supply of cheap rental accommodation," he said. "Kent will be the most impacted in the South East and it will be most affected by the benefit reforms.

"There are 24,000 people claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) in the county and 30,000 on the social rented housing waiting list. People claiming JSA will have housing benefit cut after 12 months and yet they won't all be able to find a job in that time.

"There is going to be real pressure on social housing and if low-income families move here from London it will be even worse."

In past years Kent has also become one of the main dumping grounds for vulnerable youngsters. The county is currently home to 1,400 'looked after children' sent to the area from local authorities from as far away as Manchester and Birmingham, which take advantage of the cluster of children's homes in the coastal towns.

Campaigners say the practice puts a strain on local services, such as schools and hospitals.

However, Government has now announced regulations restricting out-of-area placements will be brought in next April.

May talks stereoscopic books at festival

By MARIJKE COX
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

Rock star on 3D tour back through time

LEGENDARY Queen guitarist Brian May will share his lifelong passion with Kent's literary crowd by taking them on a visual journey into the past.

In what will be a far cry from his rock star lifestyle, the world-renowned musician and songwriter will present his book – A Village Lost and Found – at the Folkestone Book Festival on Wednesday, November 10.

Co-written by Elena Vidal, the publication is a collection of original 1850s stereoscopic photographs – 2D pictures brought together to create the illusion of depth.

May, ranked as one of the greatest guitarists of all time, told KOS Media his fascination with stereoscopic – or 3D – pictures pushed him to create the book.

"I have too many passions in my life, but I've been interested in stereoscope photography since I was about seven," he said.

"This is a book I've always wanted to write. It's been a good journey for me.

"There's a quiet, contemplative atmosphere that pervades this book. It gives people a window to look though to see tales from years ago. It shows a moment in time.

"The book is all about people of that time and their lives. It gives a real glimpse into an almost forgotten way of thinking."

Contemplative

The 63-year-old, who wrote such Queen hits as We Will Rock you and I Want It All, based his book on images of a forgotten Oxfordshire village taken in the 1850s by photographer TR Williams.

May is now bringing what he describes as his "show" to Folkestone, to share the Victorian dreams seen in the pictures in his book.

"What makes it different to others is the magic of 3D," he said.

"Everyone knows what 3D is and this is doing it the Victorian way.

"It lets people step into Victorian dreams and actually feel something. There was no TV or cars – there was a different way of looking at life. It was a bit more contemplative.

"I've done a lot of these events like the one in Folkestone. This is a show, a production in 3D – we're duplicating the book in the room.

"You couldn't do that in Victorian times. It's a very nice experience. You get a lot of wows with this book."

May said he expects stereoscope enthusiasts to come to his presentation, but admitted he would get some people turning up expecting him to bring out his guitar.

"You obviously get people coming because of who I am, but generally everyone enjoys the show," he said.

May, who has a PhD in astrophysics, is already a published writer having created Bang! The Complete History of the Universe with astronomer Sir Patrick Moore and astrophysicist Chris Lintott.

"In Bang! there were three of us working on it and I was a bit like the translator for them to get the audience to understand," said May.

"In the case of TR Williams there is nobody that knows about the subject better than myself and Elena.

"I was the best vehicle for his work to be shown to the world and it has been very worthwhile for me."

Humorous

Asked whether he found writing and performing very different, May said: "Doing this book was similar to making a record or an album. Music and writing are very complimentary.

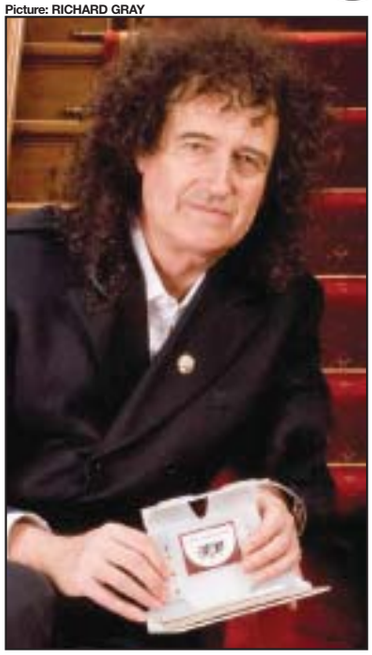
"I've just launched Kerry Ellis' album. It's harder now to launch an album – it's different to when Queen took off.

"I'm also writing another book with Patrick and Chris called Cosmic Tourist. It's more humorous, but has a hidden depth like Bang!"

May is also still working on the We Will Rock You tours, with plans to launch the show in Berlin.

For information and tickets to the Folkestone Book Festival go to www.folkestonelitfest.co.uk.

Picture: RICHARD GRAY



SHOW TIME: May will talk at literary festival

Exile receives MBE

A FARMER savagely beaten by supporters of Robert Mugabe in Zimbabwe has received an MBE from the Queen for services to the agricultural community.

Ben Freeth, originally from Sittingbourne, has campaigned for justice for white Zimbabwean farmers who have been forced off their farms by the state.

In 2009, he was forced to leave his farm with his father-in-law and family.

Mr Freeth, whose parents still live in Sittingbourne, continued campaigning against Mugabe's rule despite being beaten and having his property torched.

Pair's nutty attempt

AFRICAN stowaways were detained by border police after being caught hiding inside a consignment of Christmas fruit and nuts.

The two illegal immigrants – from the north-east African country of Eritrea – were discovered in the back of a lorry bound for Aylesford, near Maidstone, late last week.

The Italian driver and the haulage company he works for now face a potential fine of £2,000 per person if they are unable to prove they took steps to secure the vehicle.

Blaze at MP's office

SPORTS minister Hugh Robertson's constituency office went up in flames on Thursday.

Firefighters were called to deal with a blaze at a shop below the property in The Square, Lenham, at about 3.45am.

Crews from Maidstone, Marden, Sittingbourne, Lenham and Faversham were involved in tackling the fire.

Mr Robertson is also the MP for Faversham and Mid Kent.

A FACEBOOK pervert has been jailed for 16 months for attempting to lure schoolgirls into engaging in sex acts.

Joseph Peacock, 21, pretended to be a teenage boy called Carl Sharpe to contract more than 50 girls at schools in west Kent.

The Tonbridge resident was jailed on Wednesday after admitting to masturbating in front of youngsters via his webcam.

Bomb victim's harrowing story heard at 7/7 inquest

A TRAUMATIC personal account from a Kent survivor of the London bombings has been used in the first 7/7 inquest.

A description from Beverli Rhodes of the shocking aftermath of the attacks was included in the inquest into the Tavistock Square blast, where Islamic extremist Hasib Hussain blew up a double-decker bus killing 13 innocent people.

The 49-year-old grandmother, from Kennington in Ashford, was one of the survivors of the bomb on the tube near King's Cross and Russell Square stations.

Mrs Rhodes, a senior project consultant in anti-terrorism at the time, was on her way to a meeting in Tavistock Square with Olympic officials and ministers to discuss a major contract to provide security for the whole of the 2012 games venue.

Despite suffering serious chest, leg and facial injuries on the tube, she continued her way to the meeting.

"Your head does funny things when you're in shock," she told KOS Media.

"I spoke to my colleague while on the way and he said 'you're never going to believe this, but a bomb has just gone off on a bus and I am covered in glass'."

Mrs Rhodes said Lynton House in Tavistock Square, where she worked at the time, was made a designated crime scene which led to a lack of disrupted working time.

"I am the only survivor with experience of two bomb sites, which is why my information was used in the inquest," she said.

"I feel I might have been the only person physically affected by the train bomb who was also damaged professionally by the bus bomb."

Mrs Rhodes, who had to leave her job due to post-traumatic stress disorder, admitted she also became suspicious about who the bombers' targets were.

"It went off on the bus at 9.57am, three minutes before the Olympic security meeting was due to be held in Lynton House in a boardroom directly opposite the top deck of the bus."

Inquests into the 2005 disaster are to continue into next year, with security prevention also due to be scrutinised.

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Original Ivor clips 'were never lost'

THE co-creator of the popular Ivor the Engine series has rubbished claims that 26 original films have suddenly been discovered at his home near Canterbury.

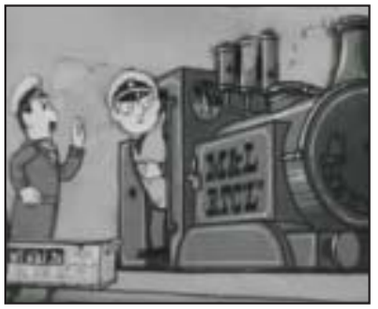
Peter Firmin, who along with the late Oliver Postgate founded the Smallfilms company in the 1960s, told KoS that reports the clips had been lost for years were "rubbish".

The national press revealed this week how Mr Postgate's son Daniel spotted the film reels while searching through Mr Firmin's former pig shed with film researchers from Kaleidoscope.

"I knew they were there," said Mr Firmin, who also helped create such legendary characters as Bagpuss, Basil Brush and The Clangers. "They have been there since the 1960s.

"I suppose it's a nice story saying they have been uncovered for the first time in 40 years, but the truth is we just never needed to see them."

The haul of 16mm films was contained in 40 old reel tins in Mr Firmin's shed, which both he and Mr Postgate used as a store.



Mr Firmin said the clips were original black-and-white versions of Ivor the Engine, which were later remade in colour for the BBC.

"I wouldn't call these lost," he said "They were horrible and very crude. We were learning about animation at this stage.

"A lot of it was made with cut-outs and I still have a lot of those. There are a lot of rolled up backgrounds stored in the roof of my studio."

DNA helps catch rapist from 1980s

A RAPIST who evaded justice for more than two decades has been sent to jail after new DNA technology tracked him down.

Stanley Daniels, 57, of Blackbull Road, Folkestone, was sentenced to six years behind bars after admitting raping a woman in Sandgate in 1989.

Police reopened the case last year when samples taken from the victim at the time of the attack were re-examined using new forensic techniques to build up a DNA profile.

There was a one-in-a-billion match with Daniels, who was already serving a nine-year sentence for a rape he committed in Folkestone in March, 2005.

See Dickens books

A PRICELESS collection of books written by and related to Charles Dickens is to be opened to the public for the first time.

The 400-strong Fitzgerald Collection will be made available at the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre from December 8.

Percy Fitzgerald was a personal friend of Dickens' and was the first president of the Dickens Fellowship.

He donated his collection of memorabilia to Rochester's Eastgate House Museum in 1912, where it was displayed before going into storage.

SOUTHERN Water was one of just six companies which failed to meet its target for managing leakages last year.

The firm has been warned by industry regulator Ofwat to clean up its act after going over its target by 3.3 per cent.

Ofwat chief executive Regina Finn said: "We take any leakage failures seriously. Most companies stepped up to the challenge of tackling leakage during a particularly harsh winter. Those who haven't, we have put on notice."

There'll be no new airport here, Boris

Council tells London Mayor to leave Kent alone

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

RESURRECTED proposals for an airport on Medway's Hoo Peninsula have been rebuffed by the Prime Minister just days after being put back on the table.

Despite fierce opposition leading to the controversial scheme at Cliffe, near Rochester, being scrapped in 2003, London Mayor Boris Johnson, who wants to increase flight capacity without expanding Heathrow, said this week he was considering a review of the original plans.

However, just days later David Cameron dismissed the idea when quizzed by Gillingham and Rainham MP Rehman Chishti during Prime Minister's Questions.

He added that the Government has no plans to build a new airport anywhere in Kent or the Thames Estuary, meaning Mr Johnson's other idea of a floating airport off the Kent coast – dubbed 'Boris Island' – now appears even less likely to see the light of day.

A Medway Council statement issued shortly after Mr Cameron's announcement read: "Medway Council welcomes the Government's confirmation that the Department for Transport has no plans to build a new airport in Medway or Kent.

"The announcement sends a clear message to the Mayor of London that he should stick to running London and stop causing unnecessary worry for those living in Medway and north Kent.

"This important news confirms what we already know about Boris Johnson's proposal. Building an airport in Medway would cause massive environmental damage and be potentially dangerous to passengers and aircraft through the risk of bird strike.

"It was a bad idea to build an airport in Medway back in 2002 and it remains a bad idea in 2010.

"It is time Boris Johnson publicly abandoned his proposal for a new international airport in Medway or the Thames Estuary and ends the uncertainty and blight he is causing for thousands living in the area."

NO PLANS: Boris Johnson's attempts to resurrect plans for an airport at Cliffe have been dismissed by the Prime Minister

The proposal to review the Cliffe airport was lodged at Mr Johnson's office by John Olsen, the British former head of Cathay Pacific Airways.

Mr Johnson has been searching for somewhere to build an airport ever since the previous Labour government announced plans to build a third runway at Heathrow.

However, he continues to put Kent forward as an option even though the Heathrow plans have now been scrapped.

Protect Kent, the county's branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, is fiercely opposed to the Cliffe proposal on environmental grounds.

A spokeswoman said: "Even if the case for more airport capacity can be supported, Protect Kent feels Cliffe is an exceptionally poor choice to site a major airport.

"The Government's consultation on its aviation strategy in 2003 identified Cliffe as an unsuitable site for a plethora of reasons."

She added that these include the destruction of internationally important protected sites which support vulnerable wildlife, and the risk to birds.

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THE INTERVIEW

BY TOM BETTS

Despite a nervous disposition, comic Jim is on the offensive

AUSTRALIAN comedian Jim Jefferies is bringing his robust live show to Kent.

But those with a sensitive nature may want to steer clear of the funnyman's two dates this side of London.

He's not afraid to touch on the most sensitive of subjects, so a feisty night is almost certainly guaranteed.

A man whose star is seemingly on the rise, the brusque comic is touring the country with his latest show, called Alcoholocaust.

He said: "I don't set out to be offensive, I just tell it how it is. People like Eddie Murphy were a big influence on me growing up. My brother and I would get the old shows like Delirious on video, and we know how offensive they were back then. I guess some of that may have rubbed off on me."

Contrary to his raw reputation, Jim, who hails from Sydney, is causing a stir in the right way.

He has been described as the "most gratifyingly riotous comedian working today" by The List and sold out five shows in the comedians' Mecca of Edinburgh.

His take-no-prisoners live act has won him fans across the country and he's an in-demand name for TV and radio appearances.

He said: "I have been barred from appearing live on Five Live's Fighting Talk after I said something about Freddie Flintoff. My bits for that show are pre-recorded now."

Jim, 33, didn't set out to be a comic but fell into it when he decided to try his hand at an open mic night.

He said: "London has open mic nights every day of the week, so anyone can get down there and see how they go and that's what I did. Eventually you do enough of those and someone starts to pay you, I guess. That's how it happened for me anyway.

"I like the lifestyle, but I am no fan of being on the road. I love the actual shows, and still get nervous from time-to-time but for me the travelling is a drag.

"I don't believe that I get paid to go on stage, I get paid to get in cars and on planes and stay in hotels and do interviews.

"The actual gig is always the highlight of my day and the nerves do sneak up on me. TV does it to me more than stand-up."

He may find the travelling a grind, but fame does have its upsides and Jim admits the female attention is not exactly something that causes him distress.

"It's an interesting thing. I'm only famous to a handful of people, but that side of it is a perk, of course it is.

"Anything that can help you in that department is a perk, and it's a by-product of what I do. That's how superficial people are."

Tickets to see Jim Jefferies: Alcoholocaust at the Trinity Theatre on Friday, November 19, cost £14 and £12. Call the box office on 01892 678678. The price for the Orchard Theatre show on Friday, November 26, is £16. Call the box office on 01322 227122 to book.

FUNNYMAN: Australian comedian Jim Jefferies loves the attention he gets from being famous but hates the travelling to his gigs

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Jobs hope for third Thames crossing plan

By MARIJKE COX
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A THIRD Thames crossing aimed at cutting congestion on one of the county's busiest road networks could create thousands of jobs and bring in billions to the economy.

The major plan, which was first unveiled as part of Kent County Council's 21st Century Kent blueprint in January, could see a lower crossing built between Kent and Essex to relieve pressure at Dartford.

The existing crossing is one of the worst bottlenecks for traffic in the country, with delays costing the UK economy £40 million a year.

In a report released by KCC outlining a transport strategy for 2011-2016, the authority set out plans for a lower Thames crossing, which could alleviate the problem.

The construction would cost £1 billion – with £500m paid for by tolls from the Dartford crossing – and create 6,000 jobs in north Kent and south Essex.

The crossing, which would incorporate new access roads linking the A2 to the M11, would also bring in an estimated £12.7bn to the local economy on both sides of the River Thames.

Potential locations for the development are next to the existing crossing or east of Gravesend and linked to Tilbury.

KCC has expressed a preference for the Gravesend site, which could see eight times more jobs created than the alternative.

Cllr Nick Chard, cabinet member for environment, highways and waste, said most people who use the crossing know there is a problem.

"Something needs to be done to take the pressure off the existing crossing," he said. "More importantly we need to look to the future to ensure traffic does not continue to clog up."

Cllr Chard said if plans are agreed, the construction would not happen overnight.

"We'd be looking at a timescale of 10 years. This would be an immense project," he said.

Council leader Paul Carter said at the launch of the 21st Century Kent blueprint that Gravesend was a practical option.

But Gravesham Borough Council leader Mike Snelling has opposed the idea.

Speaking after the publication of the transport strategy, he said: "We remain implacable that this proposal is simply not acceptable on environmental grounds – whatever the costs.

Opposition

"It would drive a swathe through our rural areas, damaging landscape, destroying greenbelt land and wrecking wildlife habitats of international importance in the process."

Cllr Snelling said that while he recognised the need to expand capacity it should not be to the detriment of the borough.

He added: "The Government must look to remove the Dartford tolls as a first step to improving capacity and then examine more closely the other options."

But freight companies have welcomed the plans, claiming a new crossing would save money for the industry.

Natalie Chapman, Freight Transport Association's head of policy for Kent, said: "Congestion represents a huge cost to the freight industry and is of significant detriment to residents and the environment.

"The Dartford crossing is not fit for purpose at the moment due to the way in which the tolls are managed, and with traffic volumes expected to rise, something's got to give.

"The route being proposed would allow for a much more direct route north of London, giving Kent businesses a more efficient and more reliable trade corridor which will ultimately make them more competitive.

"Kent is an important gateway for cross-Channel trade and faster and more direct distribution links are a must have if we are to make a full economic recovery."

Last week it was revealed the Government would increase toll charges at the Dartford crossing by a staggering 67 per cent.

The Department for Transport said from 2012 car drivers should pay £2.50 to cross the River Thames – a £1 increase from today and £1.50 more than it was just two years ago.

Motorists were promised the tolls would be scrapped once the cost of building the Queen Elizabeth II bridge was met, which it was seven years ago.

Nazi symbols are drawn on church

SWASTIKAS and racist slogans were plastered over an ancient church near Ashford.

The preserved ruin of St Mary's, on the edge of Eastwell Manor estate, was targeted at some point between October 1 and 15.

Police say they do not know if the vandalism is the work of a lone fanatic or a larger neo-Nazi group.

Anyone with information should call 01622 690690 and quote reference FY/16637/10.

Expenses case

A LABOUR peer could be investigated by police for falsely claiming expenses for a home in Maidstone.

Baroness Uddin has been suspended from the House of Lords and ordered to pay back the £125,349 she earned through the property, which she rarely used.

Her case has also been passed back to the Metropolitan Police, who may consider reviving criminal proceedings which collapsed earlier this year.

Jailed for fraud

A CROOKED solicitor has been jailed for swindling his clients out of nearly a quarter of a million pounds.

Derek Speed, 58, from Canterbury, was sentenced to five years in prison after pleading guilty to fraud by abuse of position.

He admitted falsely gaining nearly £250,000 while at his practice in Staplehurst, Maidstone.

The con artist used fake documents to transfer money and shares from his clients to a fake account in the name of Martin Smith.

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SPENDING REVIEW As the dust settles we take a look at some of the

'Cuts make us question the direction of party'

Liberal Democrat Peter Carroll is determined to bring about change

By MARIJKE COX
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A HIGH-profile Lib Dem has attacked the coalition's "hard and fast" spending cuts and vowed to fight for his party to get back on track.

Shepway councillor Peter Carroll, who lost out to Tory rival Helen Grant in the race to become Maidstone's new MP, also slammed Conservative members for "cheering with delight" after Chancellor George Osborne's spending announcement last week.

"I was appalled they could show glee at a plan which will bring pain to people," he said.

"I don't believe it is necessary to cut so hard and so fast, but the thing that angers me most of all is that the people who caused most of the problems in all this are the ones who suffer the least.

"I think the spending review has made a lot of Lib Dem activists get to the point where they are questioning where the party is going."

Cllr Carroll – who along with Joanna Lumley won equal settlement rights for retired Gurkha soldiers last year – said he was disgusted with some of the changes, in particular the proposed increase in the cap on university tuition fees.

"I was brought up on a council estate in Manchester, I went to a good school and went to university," he said.

"I got a grant to pay my tuition fees and all of this meant I have been able to lead the life I have.

"The idea of charging such levels to go to university is absolutely wrong. I am furious with this; it is taking away opportunities for people."

Cllr Carroll, who openly expressed his disappointment with the formation of the coalition in May, said despite his upset at the recent changes in the party he would not resign.

Making things better

"I've always been interested in politics to try and make things better, a bit like with the Gurkha campaign and the Lydd airport campaign," he said.

"I haven't traditionally had a working interest in the Lib Dems. I've never been on committees, for example.

"Now I've got to start going to conferences and show how I've put blood, sweat and tears into the party. Our opinion poll rating is horrific, the leadership is doing a difficult job and judgements are being made.

"But I believe the party can change."

Cllr Carroll admitted there was a feeling of disappointment among the Lib Dem voters.

"They can see a party that has fallen into bed with another party which cheers with glee to massive cuts to spending," he said.

"We did have to make cuts, but they needed to be made in a much more measured way, with sensitivity."

Fellow Lib Dem Guy Voizey, who lost to Tory Julian Brazier in the fight for the Canterbury seat, said the spending review was much as expected.

"I think people are aware there needed to be some sort of change in Government spending," he said.

"There's going to be winners and losers in this. Some people will benefit, such as poor people in schools who will see significant investment.

"People who lose out will be upset and it is the job of Government to put in conditions that allow everybody to do their own things to help themselves as much as possible."

READY FOR ACTION: Gurkha campaigner and Shepway councillor Peter Carroll

CRAYFORD accountancy firm Clinker Little says it is supporting the Government's view that business growth is the key to the country's recovery.

"Businesses have to step up to the plate by becoming more successful so they create more demand, more jobs and more wealth," said partner David Stocker

"Local entrepreneurs must leave no stone unturned in their drive to become better at everything they do."

Businesses are invited to call 01322 555442 for a free review and action plan.

Rising cost of flood defences

CIVIL engineers say ingenuity is needed to prevent Kent being overrun by flood water in the future.

According to the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), a reduction in public funding for flood defences means a more innovative approach is needed to manage flood risks.

The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is reducing resource spending by 29 per cent and capital spending by 34 per cent, with £2 billion allocated to coastal and flood defences over the four-year review period to 2015 – a reduction of £150 million.

ICE says that for every £1 spent on flood defences now, the nation saves £8 in the future in reduced damage.

Using this formula, the reduction of £150m in the budget over the next four years will cost the public £4.8bn in the years to come, and the impact will be felt in Kent thanks to its lengthy coastline.

David Balmforth, who leads ICE's work on flooding, said it was one of the biggest challenges facing Kent and the rest of the UK.

He added: "While we welcome the Government's recognition of the importance of maintaining the UK's investment in flood risk management, we would have liked to see the level of funding more adequately reflect historical investment and address the implementation of the Floods and Water Management Act.

Private sector

"With public funding decreasing in real terms, delivering better value from our investment in managing flood risk will be crucial. The private sector will also need to play a bigger role in future."

Mr Balmforth added that future measures such as coastal realignment is needed, along with more radical solutions like building out into the water and building commercial functions into defences to make them financially viable.

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fallout from Chancellor George Osbourne's £81 billion deficit reduction plan

Carers' fears over changes to child benefit

A GRANDFATHER from Canterbury spoke at a major rally calling for more recognition of the work he and others do as carers.

Jim Newell was among more than 200 people who arrived at Westminster on Thursday calling for more respect from the Government, describing themselves as the 'forgotten army' of carers.

The rally, organised by the charity Grandparents Plus, decried the recent welfare reform and associated child benefit cuts, which they say will undermine their ability to care for young relatives.

Mr Newell said: "My wife and I are the sole carers for our three grandchildren and when they initially came to live with us four years ago, I continued to work full-time.

"Eventually I had to give up my job; it was far too stressful working and taking care of the children, who were all under three at the time. I believe more needs to be done to recognise the important role grandparents play in caring for children.

"As it currently stands, we get little financial support and already live on a shoestring.

"It is frightening to think what the implications of the spending cuts and welfare reforms might be. I'm sure it'll hit many grandparent carer families hard."

Grandparents Plus says there are 200,000 family and friends carers, raising about 300,000 children in the UK who would cost an estimated £12 billion each year if they were in the care system. The majority of these households have under £300 a week to live on, plus seven per cent get no benefits at all.

A report also found 41 per cent are raising a child alone, and 57 per cent have given up work or reduced their hours to take on the care of a child.

Chief executive Sam Smethers said: "We share the Government's vision for the Big Society, and grandparents are at the forefront of it because society is built on the family.

"But here are grandparents doing the right thing, picking up the pieces in times of crisis and all too often they take a financial hit and their health suffers as a result."

We're ready for reduced police budget

KENT Police Authority (KPA) has hit back at suggestions it may not be able to manage the Government's spending cuts.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary said it had "real concern" that some police authorities would be unable to tackle the four per cent annual savings as they are due to be replaced by directly-elected commissioners halfway through the four-year plan.

It said that less than one in five of the bodies it examined were ready to help forces cut effectively.

However, KPA chairwoman Ann Barnes said the report did not include Kent because a pilot inspection in 2009 found that the authority was performing well.

She added: "We welcome this new report and it can only be a good thing that public money is being scrutinised.

"However, we have a clear plan around cuts to our police budget and a proven good financial track record.

"It won't be easy, but we are well placed to find the money we need. HMIC has questioned whether police authorities are able to do this, but there will be no criticism of us here in Kent, of that I am confident."

Before the spending review, Kent's Chief Constable Ian Learmonth revealed that Kent Police will have no option but to slash 1,500 jobs if the Home Office removes 20 per cent of its funding – the equivalent of about £53 million over the next four years.

Mrs Barnes told KoS the authority will not know how the cuts will affect the force until early December.

She said: 'We're facing the biggest cut to police funds in years but I'm more confident than ever that we are prepared.

"There will be hard decisions to make but this isn't just about cost-cutting. We have spoken at length with the public as we have a duty to ensure public priorities are also met. This goes hand in hand with any cuts and making sure we deliver the right service.

"As long as we exist we will do all we can. It's crystal clear that we are still responsible for making sure there is an efficient and effective service.

"But the report does raise questions about whether one person – a police and crime commissioner – would be able to meet these challenges on their own. The abolishment of police authorities in 2012 is no excuse for taking a step back."

WELL PLACED: Ann Barnes says the police authority is prepared to meet cuts

THE head of one of Kent's most pressured Citizens Advice Bureaus has warned of a troubled future.

Ian Driver, district manager for Thanet's CAB, said the decision by Government to cut council spending by seven per cent for the next four years is likely to have a major impact on the isle's residents.

He also questioned how CAB could continue to help people with such a huge demand expected due to the cutting of public sector jobs.

"In the past six months we have seen 2,300 clients, a 30 per cent increase on the previous year and the biggest percentage increase out of 14 Kent CABs," he said.

"Once the spending review begins to bite I expect client numbers to increase even more rapidly. I simply don't know how we will cope."

Ticket price hike could hit MPs at next election

A PASSENGER group has warned MPs they could lose their seats at the next general election after the Government introduced a rise in the cap on rail pricing, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

The Campaign for Better Transport commissioned a national poll which revealed 74 per cent of commuters were likely to switch their support away from parties that agreed to an increase within the current pricing formula.

But despite the findings, Chancellor George Osborne announced in the spending review the current cap of one per cent plus the Retail Price Increase (RPI) was increasing to three per cent plus inflation.

It means most fares could be 37 per cent higher by the time of the next general election.

In Kent pricing regulations are different to the rest of the UK, as rail operator Southeastern already has the flexibility to increase fares by inflation plus three per cent. This is due to a four-year franchise agreement between the company and the Government.

But with the coalition choosing to change the national formula, the county's passengers will now miss out on the long-awaited break from high increases which were due to come in once the agreement expired in 2012.

By 2015, a season ticket from Gillingham to London, for example, could cost £5,236 – £1,428 more than at present.

Alexandra Woodsworth, public transport protestor for the Campaign for Better Transport, said the poll showed commuters were not going to just accept excessive fare hikes.

"Passengers have been promised 'fair fares' by the Government, and now many could be paying hundreds if not thousands of pounds more for their season tickets in just a few years' time," she said.

Franchise

"We need to encourage more people to take the train, not price those who already do back into their cars."

Tory MPs in marginal seats in Kent – those who would be affected should the poll findings prove accurate – have been pushing for fair pricing.

Rehman Chishti, Tory MP for Gillingham and Rainham, had a meeting with transport minister Theresa Villiers to discuss his concerns about the RPI plus three per cent formula in the South East.

He said: "I commute from Gillingham every day and know how strongly people feel about this issue. I have been actively campaigning to make sure passengers get a fair deal.

"The managing director of Southeastern visited Gillingham and Rainham railway stations with me to listen to passengers' concerns, and I tabled a Parliamentary question asking the Government to consider average earnings growth when setting rail fares."

Mr Chishti's Tory colleagues, Rochester and Strood MP Mark Reckless and Chatham and Aylesford representative Tracey Crouch, have also been campaigning against the fare formula.

Mr Reckless, who met with Southeastern managing director Charles Horton to discuss the situation, said the travelling public had suffered far too long with the "unfair" franchise agreement negotiated by the previous Labour government and Southeastern.

He said: "I want Theresa Villiers to understand how unhappy many of my constituents are with Southeastern and the last government singling us out for bigger increases than anywhere else in the country."

He vowed to make sure his constituents' concerns were raised at the highest level and asked commuters to send comments to him at mark.reckless@yahoo.co.uk or through his website at www.markreckless.com.

KCC RAIL REVIEW

A RAIL action plan is being drawn up by County Hall chiefs calling for better train services across Kent.

They are urging passengers to give their views to help put pressure on the Department for Transport to ensure improvements are made.

Cllr Nick Chard, Kent County Council cabinet member for environment, highways and waste, chaired a summit with representatives from rail user groups and parishes last week.

The meeting came ahead of the awarding of the new rail franchise for services, which is due to come into effect in 2012 when the current agreement between Southeastern and the Government expires.

Cllr Chard said: "I want to make a difference for rail users in Kent. It's most effective if we collectively do it together. We want the Department for Transport to get a common, clear view of what we want from the next rail franchise. We can't start this too early."

The rail action plan will be produced by mid-December and shared with passengers until the end of March. It will then be considered at next April's rail summit at County Hall.

Passenger groups can send comments to paul.crick@kent.gov.uk.

COURT HEARING

EUROSTAR'S controversial decision to buy German trains has received conditional backing from the European Investment Bank.

France is opposed to the choice of the Siemens trains rather than ones from French manufacturer Alstom.

This week Alstom launched a High Court action against the high-speed rail operator, claiming its procurement process was flawed.

However, Eurostar said no issue was raised until after Alstom had lost the bid.

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09 58 Ford Fiesta 1.4 TDCi Style + 3dr BLUE 37k	£8299	£7995	£304
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09 59 Seat Leon 2.0 TSI Cupra 5dr Black 5020	£18700	£16799	£1901
09 59 Toyota IQ 1.0 VVT-i 3dr TYROL SILVER 6915	£8990	£8395	£595
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07 07 Honda Accord Estate 2.2 i-CTDi EX 5dr Brown 29k	£12115	£11499	£616
06 56 Honda FR-V 2.2 i-CTDi SE 5dr Sparkle Grey Met 62k	£9100	£9000	£100
07 07 Honda Jazz 1.4 i-DSi Sport 5dr Red 39173	£6550	£6499	£51
07 57 Jaguar X-type 2.0d S 4dr Black 44541	£10355	£10000	£355
09 59 Kia Ceed 1.6 CRDi GS 5dr Red 7579	£10635	£9995	£640
09 59 Kia Ceed 1.6 GS Crdi 5dr Artic White 6050	£10605	£10495	£110
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08 58 Saab 9-3 1.9 TTiD 180 Vector Sport 4dr silver 16802	£15295	£14499	£796
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Police bring end to animal extremists' reign of terror

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

THE JAILING of six animal rights extremists brings to a close a lengthy and complex investigation carried out by Kent Police.

On Monday the last few members of the Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) group were sentenced to a total of more than 17 years behind bars for their part in a hate-fuelled campaign of terror.

The organisation used paedophile smears, criminal damage and bomb hoaxes to intimidate companies associated with the Cambridgeshire business, with some members even sending used sanitary items in the post and daubing messages like 'puppy killer' outside managers' homes.

Kent Police was chosen to lead the investigation back in January, 2005, as more than half of the animal extremist crimes in the UK at that point were being committed in London and the South East.

During the course of the investigation SHAC moved its secret headquarters to the village of East Peckham, near Tonbridge.

The six jailed on Monday were Thomas Harris, 27, and Nicola Tapping, 29, from Ringwood, Hampshire; Sarah Whitehead, 53, from Littlehampton, West Sussex; Nicole Vosper, 22, from Newquay, Cornwall; Jason Mullan, 32, from London; and Alfie Fitzpatrick, 21, from Solihull in the West Midlands.

Harris, Whitehead and Vosper all pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit blackmail while Mullan, Tapping and Fitzpatrick admitted to conspiracy to interfere with the contractual relations of an animal research organisation.

DAMAGED: Cars were daubed with graffiti

Det Chief Insp Andy Robbins said: "The criminal tactics employed by members of SHAC, which ranged from sending threatening emails to placing explosive devices, were designed to create a climate of fear among their victims.

Conspiracy

"Such tactics have no place in a democratic society and in no way reflect the peaceful protests carried out by the vast majority of legitimate animal welfare campaigners.

"The police service remains committed to facilitating the peaceful protest of the majority, but we will not tolerate individuals who try to use crime to force their targets into submission."

The six defendants jailed were part of a larger animal extremists group, many of whom are also now serving time behind bars.

Among them was Bromley resident Daniel Wadham, who was jailed for five years in January, 2009, for conspiracy to blackmail.

The total cost of the investigation was £4.2 million.

DCI Robbins said: "The sentences are a fitting reflection of the systematic and relentless intimidation of individuals and their employers, carried out by a small group of criminals. I would like to pay tribute to the many victims who had endured the criminal campaign and who were prepared, if it had been necessary, to give evidence in court."

Swan is beheaded

THE RSPCA is appealing for witnesses after a swan was found beheaded near the River Thames in Gravesend.

Its body was found in the Commercial Place Riverside Leisure area early on October 21.

An RSPCA inspector said witnesses reported there was a spray of blood around the body, suggesting the swan was still alive when it was attacked. Anyone with information should call 0300 123 4999.

MPs' dogs do battle

POLITICAL pooches belonging to two Kent MPs will be competing in the Westminster Dog of the Year competition this week.

Thanet North's Roger Gale is entering his Newfoundland Lollie in Tuesday's finals, while Maidstone MP Helen Grant will be keeping her fingers crossed for Charlie the border terrier.

The competition takes place at Victoria Tower Gardens, next to the House of Lords.

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Young offenders injured in prison

CHILD convicts caged at the Medway Secure Training Centre were injured while being restrained on 101 occasions in just a two-year period, a new study has found.

The young prisoners – aged between 12 and 17 – suffered from cuts, scratches, nosebleeds, bruising and sprains between April 2007 and March 2009.

Restraint was used 127 times on children held at the Rochester centre in the first three months of 2009 – averaging 42 times per month.

The Howard League for Penal Reform, which released the figures, has accused Ofsted – the body responsible for the welfare of the teenagers – of failing to prevent violence.

Director Frances Cook said: "Children held in Medway STC have been subject to violence, danger, fear and possibly abuse, yet Ofsted has failed to acknowledge this and prevent it.

"The inspection regime for STCs has failed to provide assurance that children in these institutions are being cared for safely.

"Ofsted is failing to protect the welfare of children in Medway STC."

Ofsted's latest report into Medway STC, published on Monday, gave the Sir Evelyn Road centre a 'good' rating.

An Ofsted spokesman said: "The league has a long established view that secure training centres should be closed, and Ofsted respects this. However, our responsibility is to inspect and report on the evidence. The use of restraint is something we scrutinise rigorously at every inspection.

"We extensively review records of restraint, including the viewing of CCTV footage. We meet with officers from both the Youth Justice Board and the local authority who are responsible for monitoring the use of restraint, and the advocates who visit the young people weekly.

"Most importantly we talk to young people themselves, without staff being present."

Emotional journey to the ends of the earth

By **NICK AMES** and **KATY LITTLE**

NEWSPAPER boss Paul Stannard took time out from a schedule of meetings to explore one of the most remote places on earth.

As part of a drive to raise funds for Dave Lee's Happy Holidays and children's hospice Demelza, the managing director of Archant KOS Media – publisher of this newspaper – trekked through the rainforest of Peru, along mountain trails, across wide rivers and lakes before ending in the fabled lost city of the Incas – Machu Picchu.

He described the journey as "very emotional" and the final descent into the ruins of the former native American civilization as being "almost overwhelming" as he fought back tears.

He explained: "Children's charities in Kent are something KOS has been involved with for about six years now, so I felt it was time I did something myself."

He was part of a group of 14 trekkers, some of whom had a lot of previous experience, including climbing Mount Everest.

The trip followed the ancient trail of the Incas, climbing mountain peaks, and scaling valleys before descending into the city itself.

The group were shown an insect which can paralyse a tarantula before laying its eggs in the deadly spider and at night listened in tents to the sounds of the jungle creatures, among them the distinctive howler monkey.

OVERWHELMING: Paul Stannard scaled the Sun Gate to look down on the ancient city.

One of the main dangers of trekking in the rainforest at altitude are thunderstorms.

"The weather can change so quickly," said Mr Stannard. "I would not have liked to be on the path in a storm.

"But when you climb the Sun Gate and look down on the city everybody gets very emotional and there were tears."

Mr Stannard, who self-financed his trip to ensure all monies he raised go to charity, said his trek gave him new perspectives.

"It made me think about the people I was doing it for, about my family and life in general," he said. "The local people are a hardy lot, maybe they haven't as much as others in some ways but they are always cheerful.

"The first couple of days were fine but later I started thinking 'what on earth am I doing'. Now I'm back maybe I'm romanticising it but it was fantastic."

To donate to Dave Lee's Happy Holidays go to www.justgiving.com/Paul-Stannard or www.justgiving.com/Paul-Stannard0 for Demelza. To donate by cheque make them payable to Dave Lee's Happy Holidays or Demelza House Children's Hospice and send them to Kerry Head, KOS Media Ltd, Apple Barn, Hythe Rd, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS.

To see Mr Stannard talking about his travels go to www.yourkenttv.co.uk.

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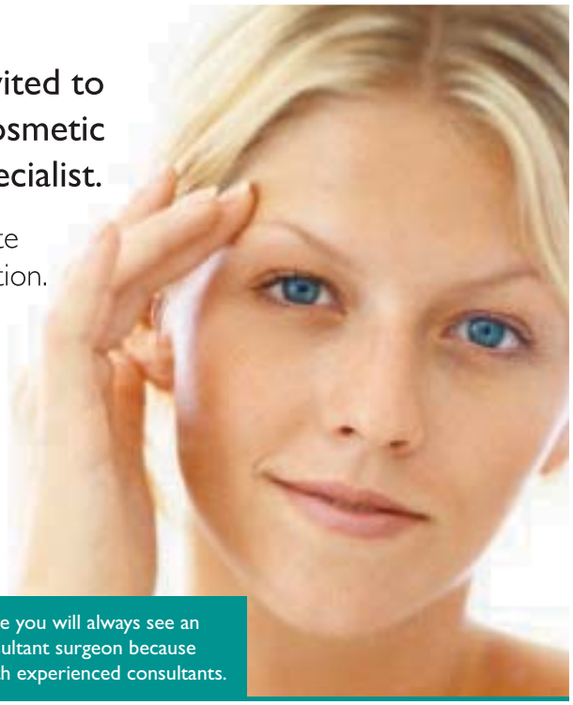

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Past and present servicemen unite for poppy appeal

By **MARIJKE COX**

WITH thousands of British servicemen risking their lives every day in Afghanistan and Iraq, this year's poppy appeal is as important as ever.

And with a large number of the fallen and injured soldiers coming from Kent, the appeal, for many, is even more poignant.

The county's Royal British Legion has also revealed more people than ever are turning to the organisation for help.

On Thursday, under the motto 'For their sake, pin on a poppy', representatives from the charity urged the public to honour the fallen and show support for the wounded and bereaved.

FUNDS: Appeal is important

Young representatives from active serving units joined 90-year-old veterans, who were driven to County Hall in a fleet of vintage cars, to remember all the lives lost and families affected by war.

The event, hosted by Kent County Council chairman Cllr Bill Hayton, also celebrated the start of the Royal British Legion's 90th anniversary, which has been supporting some of the Kent veterans since they were just 19.

During the ceremony, the veterans and newly recruited servicemen were formally presented with the first poppies of the 2010 appeal.

Geoff Simpson, the Royal British Legion in Kent's manager, said funds raised through the appeal will provide support for injured servicemen and bereaved families trying to move on with their lives.

"During Remembrancetide (Remembrance Sunday), we will honour the memory of those who have died," he said.

"We will not forget the living and those who have had their lives shattered by dreadful wounding, or the loss of a loved one.

"The funds raised through our annual poppy appeal help provide emotional and financial support for those servicemen and their families who are trying to rebuild their lives. In Kent we can see that this need for support is greater than ever."

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Scrapping of port tax a boost for businesses

ONE of Kent's busiest docks could see an influx of investment after the Government vowed to draw a line under "unfair" port business rates, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

Changes to the way companies are charged tax could also increase job opportunities at Sheerness docks, which provide work for hundreds across the county, as confidence is restored.

In a visit to the island on Monday, Bromley and Chislehurst MP Bob Neill – parliamentary under-secretary for the communities and local government department – condemned Labour's backdated rates scheme and promised to support the port.

The Tory MP said the previous Government's decision in 2008 to impose additional rates on companies, backdated to 2005, was "wrong and unfair" where 59 Sheerness businesses were faced with a total bill of £4.8 million.

Mr Neill said the scrapping of backdated rates would give businesses a chance to move forward. A freeze of payments was first announced in May, but firm plans were set out in a paper this week.

"It will not only help existing businesses but attract other companies to Sheerness once confidence is restored," said Mr Neill.

But while business owners welcomed the news, Mr Neill admitted there would be no chance for compensation claims for businesses which succumbed to financial pressure under the rates scheme.

"The change won't affect those companies that are no longer trading, but we will continue to look at how to improve schemes for the future," said Mr Neill.

In 2008 French car importer GEFCO UK – one of the largest employers at the docks – faced a £3m bill and the loss of hundreds of staff. The company had welcomed the announcement in May that the coalition was to scrap backdated rates, but admitted to being wary that the law would not change.

But following Mr Neill's visit, a spokesman said he had a new confidence in the Government: "The message here is that the coalition has an interest in ports."

AN EXTERNAL audit has found Kent County Council is 99.9 per cent accurate on its payments.

The audit looked at more than 700,000 invoices over a three-year period.

It comes as new research suggests local authorities could be wasting as much as £150 million a year on duplicate and incorrect payments.

Cabinet member for finance Cllr John Simmonds said: "This high rate of accuracy is no small feat in an organisation as large as ours, which has a budget of £2.4 billion and deals with about 400,000 payments each year."

HAMMER killer Michael Stone has been refused a new appeal over his conviction for the 1996 murders of Lin and Megan Russell.

The Criminal Cases Review Commission ruled on Tuesday that it had identified "nothing which justifies referring the case for a new appeal".

Stone is serving three life sentences and has been told he must spend at least 25 years behind bars over the attacks which took place in Chillenden, near Canterbury.

He has always protested his innocence but has failed on several occasions to have his conviction overturned.

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Brickworks to go under the hammer

THE historic location of one of Kent's first coalfields has been put up for sale at auction.

Based in the village of Woodnesborough, near Sandwich, the former colliery is perhaps best known as the site of the Hammill Brick Company that went out of business in 2006.

The 14-acre property will go under the hammer next month, with Maidstone-based Clive Emson auctioneers setting a freehold guide price of £650,000-700,000.

"A new chapter is about to be written regarding one of Kent's most extraordinary stories," said auctioneer Kevin Gilbert.

"Whoever buys Hammill will also be buying a slice of British industrial history."

The former colliery was opened in 1910 by local entrepreneur Arthur Burr, who founded Kent's first coal company in 1896 and also ran five other sites across the county. He believed the fuel could be mined locally to make him a fortune, but did not take into account the fact Kent coal was some of the most difficult to extract and therefore extremely expensive.

The main colliery – on Shakespeare Cliff, Dover – was supposed to cost £50,000 and produce 3,000 tons of coal per day by 1900, but instead it cost £1 million and never produced any commercial coal in 22 years.

Burr's peers had expected better from him, as in 1913 he was awarded the Freedom of Dover at an event attended by Sherlock Holmes author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who predicted Burr would transform the town into the "Liverpool of the south".

Instead he was convicted of several counts of fraud and died virtually penniless in 1919.

Meanwhile, the Hammill site was mothballed when the First World War broke out in 1914 before being reopened as a brickworks in 1927. At one point after the conflict it was taken over by the Army for use as a cavalry remount unit, and after the Second World War a rotary clay drier was used to salvage water-damaged grain.

The former colliery is one of 162 lots to be auctioned at the Ramada Hotel, Maidstone, on Wednesday (November 3).

Included in the sale will be offices, the former brickwork manufacturing premises, locomotive sheds, Nissen huts, water tower bases and open storage.

Picture: Deep South Media Ltd

FOR SALE: A slice of British industrial history

"The site has plenty of potential, subject to all the necessary consents being obtainable," said Mr Gilbert.

"Someone may come forward to turn it into a garden nursery centre, a haulage depot, an industrial estate or even a scheme for residential development.

"We anticipate some keen interest."

Snap up some 'unsuccessful' art

PAINTINGS by one of history's least successful artists are to be sold on for about £75 each, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

According to those who knew Kent-born Henry Stockley, he managed to sell just one painting during his life and that was returned the next day when the buyer's friends said they didn't like it.

Rubbished during his lifetime, the former Swanley bus driver is now being heralded as one of Britain's most important artists thanks to his distinctive style.

Destroyed

About 300 of Stockley's 400 works were later believed to have been destroyed, but 10 recently discovered paintings are now due to be sold.

Auctioneer Richard Murphy said his father spotted the work stacked in a corner at the Norfolk home of Lucy Wertheim, who held several Stockley exhibitions in the 1930s.

He added: "My father brought them back here and we started to look into Stockley. "Many people think his work is simply childish daubings, but art can be fickle and they could sell for a lot.

"When my father found these, several more emerged from the Midlands and they are all going on sale together on Friday, November 12, here in Norfolk.

"Stockley was known as Britain's most unsuccessful painter, but hopefully these will attract some decent interest."

Born in 1892 in Eynsford, near Dartford, he was once described as being "the greatest inspired painter since William Blake".

Self-taught, he mixed his own colours but was hampered in quality because of a shortage of money for materials to paint on. Therefore he used items like linoleum, pillow cases, floor boards, plywood, brown paper, bits of glass, and wallpaper.

The artist once said he planned to burn all his paintings due to the criticism they received, but Mr Murphy said it was unclear if he ever carried out the threat.

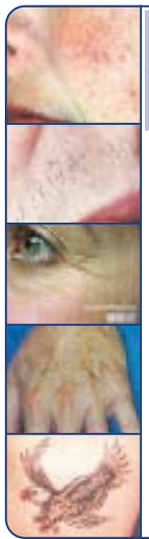
Stockley died in 1982 at Mabledon psychiatric hospital in Dartford, where he was admitted following the death of his wife due to his increasingly erratic behaviour.

Charitable visit

A WALKER who is tackling the entire 7,000 mile UK coastline arrived in Kent this week.

Nat Severs, 24, left Portsmouth on January 10 and is walking 25 miles a day to raise money for the Stroke Association, the Mammal Society and the Southampton Hospital paediatric unit.

"I have never visited the county before," he said. "So far everyone has been really friendly and the stretch between Whitstable and Margate was particularly good. I hope the rest of my journey lives up to it."



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Carter re-elected

KENT County Council leader Paul Carter has been re-elected for the sixth successive year.

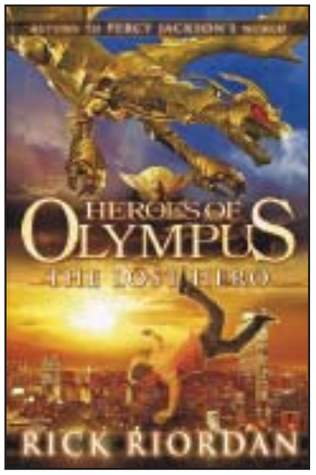
Cllr Carter, who earned the job in 2005 when the late Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart stood down, received unanimous support from fellow Conservatives at the party's annual meeting. He has re-appointed Cllr Alex King as his deputy and Cllr Julie Rook as the group's chief whip.

Hot curry finalists

FOUR of the county's Indian restaurants have been shortlisted for a gong at the 2010 British Curry Awards.

The Green Spice in Dartford, Light of India in Dover, Shampan 2 in Bromley and Shampan 3 in Welling are all in the running for a curry 'Oscar'.

The awards will be held at London's Grosvenor House Hotel on November 21.



Lightning Thief writer brings his latest hero to Bluewater signing

THE American author behind the popular Percy Jackson series of books will magic up his latest offering at Bluewater next weekend, ***writes Steve Knight***.

Rick Riordan's most famous novel starring the modern-day son of an ancient Greek god – entitled the Lightning Thief – made more than $255 million worldwide when it was released as a film last year.

But the Texas-born writer focused on a host of new characters in his latest book The Lost Hero, which is the first of a new series entitled The Heroes of Olympus.

In addition to greeting his army of adoring fans at Bluewater, the 46-year-old will also mark his visit to the UK by taking part in a special webcast that thousands more will be able to view live.

"It's been over a year since I've been to the UK and I'm very excited to come back," he said. "I always enjoy visiting the schools and travelling the beautiful countryside."

When asked if he was nervous about taking part in the webcast, Riordan replied: "Well, I'll be in a little room by myself so if things go wrong I suppose I can just pull the plug. But no, I've actually done webcasts like this before and always enjoy them immensely. Besides, I taught American middle school for years, so after that pretty much nothing scares me."

The Heroes of Olympus series is the sequel to the Percy Jackson and the Olympians books, and features references to many of the mythological beings and Greek gods featured in previous offerings.

And much like his most famous character, the stars of The Lost Hero – Jason, Leo and Piper – also suffer from attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

"Both my sons have ADHD so I'm quite familiar with it," said Riordan.

"I put that in the book for them. The same is true for dyslexia. I liked the idea that these conditions could be a mark of honour rather than a stigma, as these children tend to do well in life if they can just get through their school years.

"ADHD can make you incredibly focused on things you care about. Both conditions can make you a creative thinker because you have to find new solutions to problems just to get through the day. A study recently came out that found a disproportionate number of billionaires have ADHD."

Rick Riordan will be signing copies of The Lost Hero at the Bluewater branch of Waterstone's at noon on Saturday, November 6. He will then be at the Bromley Waterstone's at 3pm.

The Lost Hero is available now through Puffin, priced £12.99.

BOOK GOD: Author of The Lost Hero, Rick Riordan

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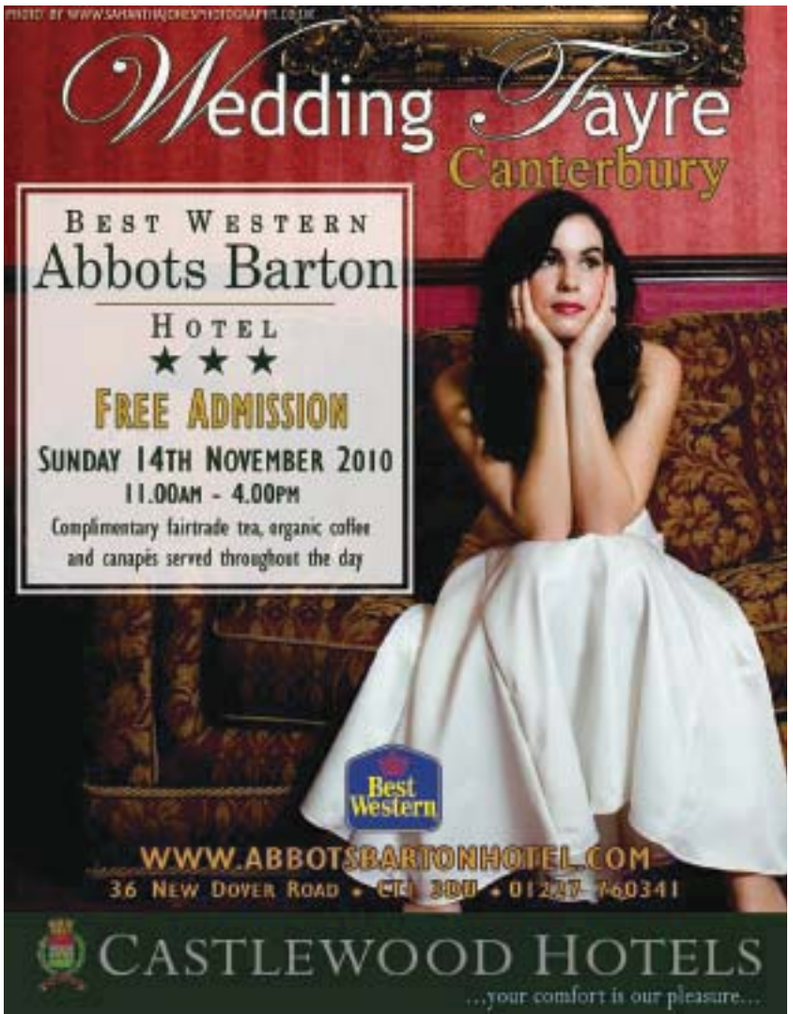

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NEW BEACH HOLIDAY PARK

Don't turn back time, urges Saga

FOLKESTONE-based elderly services provider Saga is calling for the Government to put a stop to turning the clocks back in winter.

The firm says two-thirds of over-50s support a switch to Central European Time to give them an extra hour of light at the end of the working day.

Director-general Ros Altmann said: "Taking away the extra hour robs many of them of their independence.

"By staying indoors to avoid driving they are being isolated from friends and family while ramping up their spending on energy."

Cold callers ID'd

A SECOND cold-calling control zone has been set up on the Isle of Sheppey

Residents in the Warden Bay area will be given packs containing information on the best way to deal with uninvited traders.

Local businesses are still free to operate within the zone but should be prepared for their IDs to be checked by residents.

Dockyard tribute to disaster victims

THE Historic Dockyard Chatham is holding a commemorative event to mark the 70th anniversary of the sinking of HMS Jervis Bay.

More than 100 people will be in attendance at the event, many of whom are directly related to those who lost their lives in the tragedy of November 5, 1940.

A large-scale model of the vessel will form the centrepiece of the orientation gallery of the newly-restored No.1 Smithery building.

The service takes place on November 5.

Don't leave it too late

Breast cancer survivors urge women not to ignore the signs

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

WHEN Ann Ashby found a lump in her breast she pushed the problem to the back of her mind and carried on with normal life.

But five weeks, a biopsy and a mammogram later, the 54-year-old from Whitstable was delivered the shattering news she had cancer in both breasts.

Ms Ashby, who works at the University of Kent, underwent major surgery to remove both breasts, followed by chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

And to mark the end of Breast Cancer Awareness Month she has shared her story in an attempt to get more women to recognise the early symptoms of cancer.

Ms Ashby said: "My only experience of cancer was from the television where everyone looked really sick and weak. I felt fine, I was still charging about at work and put my lump down to menopausal breast changes."

But after seeing her practise nurse she found out she had cancer and underwent surgery, treatment and reconstructive surgery.

"It made me feel feminine again," she said.

"I was conscious of my flat chest after my mastectomy. I would wear baggy clothes and slouch to hide the fact I had no breasts.

"The reconstruction helped me feel like I was returning to normal."

Ms Ashby now attends the Breast Friends support group to meet others who have had the same experiences.

Nationally almost 46,000 women are diagnosed with the disease every year, with one in nine developing breast cancer.

Breast screening saves 1,400 people in England and Wales annually, but the NHS is urging more women to come forward.

Another breast cancer survivor who chose to open up about her own battle was Sylvia Mitchell, from Graveney, near Faversham.

The 57-year-old never thought she would be affected by breast cancer and assumed a breast discolouration on her right breast was a symptom of her sweat gland infection.

She said: "My mother and sister had cervical and uterine cancer, so I always thought if I got cancer it would be one of those. It never crossed my mind I would get breast cancer so I didn't bother going to screening."

But a few months later she felt a small lump in her breast and was diagnosed with the illness.

Mrs Mitchell underwent chemotherapy for five months and had her right breast and 16 lymph nodes removed.

WARNING: Ann Ashby (left) and Sylvia Mitchell (right) urge women to get screened and look out for early signs of breast cancer

The former IT network engineer admitted losing her hair was upsetting.

"That's the worst bit. I used to have hair down to my waist so when it fell out I felt like the ugliest person," she said.

John Rodriguez, NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent's assistant director of public health, urged women aged 50-70 to come forward for a mammogram every three years.

The age is currently being extended to cover 47-73-year-olds.

He said: "I urge all women to take up their invitation for screening and to check their breasts regularly for changes.

"Most cancers can be treated successfully if caught early enough so screening and being breast aware really can save your life."

East Kent Hospitals Charity has launched an appeal to raise £1.2 million for three high-tech digital machines, costing £370,000 each, to diagnose breast cancer faster at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital in Margate, and Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

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Shocking rise in insolvency cases

By MARIJKE COX
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT has been revealed as one of the worst counties for insolvency with a sharp rise in the number of people struggling with personal debt.

Figures from the Insolvency Service showed the number of new cases of people declaring themselves bankrupt or obtaining Debt Relief Orders in 2009 soared by almost 1,000 since 2008 to 3,675.

Debt Relief Orders, which were brought in last year, are a type of bankruptcy for people with little or no assets.

Out of 41 counties and major cities – excluding unitary authority areas such as Medway – Kent was placed at 17th in the list of areas with the highest debt rate, with 33.4 people in every 10,000 sinking under financial pressure.

Medway saw a rise in cases of 657 between 2008 and 2009 and a rate of 33.5.

Thanet fared the worst of the 12 districts in Kent, with 467 new cases of insolvency and a rate of 45.7.

Ian Driver, manager of Thanet's Citizens Advice Bureau, said they had seen an increase in client numbers of 30 per cent since last year.

"The number of people needing financial help has sky-rocketed," he said.

"Thirty-seven per cent of all admin here is related to debt, and our specialist debt advisor is booked four weeks in advance.

"We need to bring in more volunteers to help deliver the counselling and services we offer, but we can't afford to train and equip them."

Mr Driver said the Thanet CAB is the lowest funded in Kent despite there being the greatest need.

"We get about 71 pence per head from Thanet District Council when the Kent average for other CABs is £1.19," he said.

"We're losing out on £62,000 a year. We get about £92,000 a year from the council and the properties we use are rent free. We also get some funding from outside companies.

"But we can't afford to train and equip more volunteers – it costs £2,000 per person.

"In essence, we're turning needy people away and cutting services when they most need it and it breaks my heart."

Mr Driver has written to Prime Minister David Cameron to address the matter, but said he has not had a reply.

People struggling with debt in the county are being urged to contact the Kent Savers credit union, which can offer loans to people who may be considered a risk by a bank.

Chief officer John Fowler said the service can offer immediate financial counselling.

He said: "When it comes to needing to access finances we are in a position to help people provided they can show us that they are going to be able to pay back any loan.

"We help people no matter what income they have got and we offer loans of up to £10,000.

"People are struggling financially at the moment and this is a way to stop them going to loan sharks."

For information go to www.kentsavers.co.uk.

Businessmen out of luck in blackmail case

A BLACKMAILER who sent a bodybuilder nicknamed 'Mad Jack' to collect £400,000 from a rival businessman has been jailed for two years and four months.

SENTENCED: Lakhbir Bhana

Lakhbir Bhana, 41, from Gravesend, ordered the henchman to obtain cash from haulage boss Colin Basi, who had work carried out by Bhana's firm, Dyneema.

Bhana – nicknamed 'Lucky' – and co-defendants Surjit Bhalla, 29, from Staines; Ajmal Ellahi, 34, from Birmingham; and John 'Mad Jack' Phillips, 49, from Reading; were sentenced last week having earlier been found guilty of conspiracy to blackmail.

Ellahi and Phillips were sentenced to two years and six months behind bars, while Bhalla received a jail term of two years and four months.

The court heard how the four men engaged in an elaborate conspiracy to obtain money from Mr Basi that Bhana claimed was owed to him.

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BUSINESS WEEK Live

Conference Programme

Lord Michael Howard

Tim Allen
MJ Allen

Phil Beavan
Innovation & Growth Team

Elizabeth Dolding
Warners Solicitors

Johnnie Jensen
Tmandi

Dan Maudhub
Wonderful Creative Agency

Simon Brown
Coca Cola

Neil Annis
ThinkGap

Ben Edwards
Page Suite

Opening Address: 9.00 – 9.20
Lord Michael Howard, Baron Howard of Lympne
Paul Stannard, MD, ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

Session 1. 9.30 – 10.00
Winning business from the public sector TODAY Panel discussion
In the wake of the comprehensive spending review, many businesses will have to review the way in which they trade with the public sector. Public sector procurement covers everything from multi-billion pound orders for aircraft carriers down to contracts to clean the windows of local schools or supply flowers to the town hall. Every government department, local authority, LEA and health trust has its procurement officers and each has its own buying requirements.
Panel members: Tim Allen, Group Managing Director, MJ Allen
Martin Wragg, Defence Suppliers Service, MOD
Jeff Alexander, Head of External Affairs, South East Region, EEF

Session 2. 10.15 – 10.45
Readying investment… how to catch your dragon
Many people have some great ideas; however, translating then into a tangible prospect for business and investors is not always so easy. Come along and hear how to attract and secure equity investment into your business... the do's and don'ts, rights and wrongs... and how to spectacularly cock it up.
Speakers: Phil Beavan, Portfolio Director, Innovation & Growth Team
Elizabeth Dolding, Partner, Warners Solicitors

Session 3. 11.00 – 11.30
Digital Revolution: What's in it for business?
Apps, stats, video, mobile technology, the web – what does it all mean for business? How can we be a part of the digital revolution and what are the implications for businesses. Come and hear from a leading expert, who has over 10 years of experience in this area, as well as working for leading companies such as Lycos Europe.
Speaker: Johnnie Jensen, Success Engineer, Tmandi

Session 4. 11.45 – 12.15
Tweet, greet and network… is social media like Twitter, Facebook and Linkedin worth the investment?
Despite the tremendous growth of business presences on social media sites, such as Facebook, LinkedIn Twitter etc, there are still many misconceptions about how best to use it. Come and hear from an expert, with many years of experience in this area and dispel some of the myths.
Get advice about spending time up front doing analysis, research, goal setting and how having a strategy will make a social media plan easy to execute.
Speaker: Dan Maudhub, Managing Director, Wonderful Creative Agency

Session 5. 1.00 - 1.30
Win the war for talent – getting the best staff
Despite the prospect of job cuts and redundancies, many sectors are struggling with a real shortage of skilled staff. With the green shoots of economic recovery starting to appear, businesses will have to work harder than ever to retain talent, and understand the best way to recruit such staff initially. Come and hear from a leading HR expert, who will offer businesses tips and hints on how to achieve this.
Speaker: Simon Brown, HR Transformation Deployment Director, Coca Cola Company

Session 6. 1.45 - 2.15
Manage and inspire… it doesn't have to be a secret
Books and courses are not a panacea to good management, nor do they guarantee that people will be able to put the theory into practice. Come and hear from a motivational speaker, who has over 20 years experience in operational management, sales, change management, training & coaching, personal and organizational development.
Speaker: Neil Annis, Managing Partner, ThinkGap

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Session 7. 2.30 - 3.00
Global brand marketing strategies for local businesses
Discover a world of multi-channel marketing opportunities and learn how big global brands maximise mobile apps, digital, print, social networking and PR as interconnected revenue generators. We showcase how local companies can create their own revenue and brand success through a strategic multi-channel campaign, quickly, efficiently and effectively.
Speaker: Ben Edwards, Marketing Manager, Page Suite

Session 8. 3.15 - 3.45
The Big Debate – what will be the role of business in the Big Society?
David Cameron launched the 'Big Society' to empower communities and said that groups should be able to run post offices, libraries, transport services and shape housing projects. What are the implications of this for businesses and how can they be involved? Come and join a panel session with leading experts from business and social enterprise to hear what they think the future landscape may look like.
Panel members: Celia Richardson, Director of Communications, Social Enterprise Coalition
Johnnie Jenson, Success Engineer, Tmandi
Clive Relf, Senior Business and Tax Partner, Reeves & Co LLP
Desmond High, Director, EMC Management Consultants Ltd
Roger House, Regional Chair of the Federation of Small Businesses

Register now for FREE tickets www.businessweeklive.co.uk

Speakers' Corner

SMART marketing and funding can turn a good idea into a profitable business, says an industry expert.
Phil Beavan, portfolio director for the Innovation and Growth Team, said too much focus is often put on a product without enough thought about how to bring in investment.
The straight-talking business guru will address Business Week Live delegates on 'Investment ready – how to catch your dragon'.
"You have to make sure the product is financially ready, that there will be high growth and a good exit route," he said.
"People have to make sure they are investment ready. There have been real horror stories where people have got a great product, but spend so much time focusing on that that they get nowhere and have lost a lot of money."
Mr Beavan said since he started with the Government-funded Kent and Medway Innovation and Growth Team in March, he has raised just over £500,000 in investment for businesses.

BUZZ words are out and straight-talking in says motivational speaker Neil Annis.
The Kent-based business expert will let Business Week Live delegates in on 'The Secret of being an Inspirational Manager'.
"I'm going to talk to people about how to get the best from themselves and how to adapt as a manager to keep staff motivated," he said.
"This is not about buzz words and hype – I really don't like that – this is about tips and advice that can be easily translated in any organisation.
"People need to be able to implement knowledge, skills and ideas into the workplace to run a successful business."

FACEBOOK, Twitter and other social networking websites have levelled the playing field between large and small businesses, says digital marketing specialist Jonnie Jensen.
Mr Jensen's Tmandi firm works with other companies to help them improve their internet search ranking and teach them how to make the best use of modern technology - a must in business today he says.
He will talk about 'The Digital Revolution' at Business Week Live: "The digital revolution has enabled businesses of all sizes to compete against one another. In the earlier days of the internet it was all about who had the most money to spend. A classic example would be companies from the insurance sector buying the most expensive keywords so customers would always come to their sites first on search engines like Google.
"But now the use of social media like blogs and forums has brought us right back to what was the original measure of a successful business, and that was representation.
"I'm keen to point out to small and medium-sized firms that there's never been a better opportunity for them to succeed. All it really takes is a creative mind and a commitment to reach the top."

PRIVATE sector firms should be pulling out all the stops to capitalise on the outsourcing of public sector contracts, says engineering boss Tim Allen.
Mr Allen – the group MD of the Ashford-based MJ Allen Group – is taking part in a panel discussion on the subject at Business Week Live: "Although there will be lots of cutbacks, the public spend is still large and there's still work to get. And with more outsourcing away from public control, there's a great opportunity for private companies to make the best of it.
"But there's no substitute for getting out there, knocking on people's doors and letting everyone know what you do."
Which makes Business Week Live a 'must' event, he said: "It's all about meeting as many new people as possible."

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Why Businesses Should Attend

by STEVE LOADER

BUSINESS EDITOR
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Business Week Live makes its debut on Wednesday November 10 – exactly three weeks after the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review.

We all knew the CSR would be a bitter pill to swallow – we hope and pray it will do good even though it tastes foul at the moment.

I know many businesses had been holding off making their plans for 2011 because they wanted to hear what Chancellor Osborne had in mind.

Now they know, they need to move fast to get those crucial plans in place for what will be a pivotal year for them and the country.

And I'm happy that Business Week Live can deliver solid foundations upon which to build or re-build rather than an exercise in tracing pretty patterns.

Instead of token celebrity speakers which, as a scribe I would welcome for the anecdotes and column inches they deliver, there is a roster of experienced industry experts discussing issues facing us all today at Business Week Live who can send delegates away with more than a few top tips that may rescue and re-energise their business.

There are a few stands remaining so companies need to move fast to secure one.

Entry is free of course, but some proprietors and managers may question whether they can afford time to attend; I would ask 'Can you afford not to?' when there is so much free advice and expertise on offer. Plus £2,500+ worth of training access from one speaker alone.

An hour or two spent here is far more valuable if it saves your company, staff and jobs – and the latter means prosperity for us all.

Take out insurance for your business - get yourself registered at www.businessweeklive.co.uk.

Exhibitor List

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All Health Matters Ltd
Archant KOS Media
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BT Local Business
Buckmore Park Karting Ltd
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On average, our MBA students have 10 years management and International experience. The session will enable companies to come and discuss ideas, issues and generally brain storm with qualified business experts from all industries and age groups.

Sessions are free throughout the day, however numbers are limited so book your place early by emailing s.blanchard@kent.ac.uk

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Workshop starts at 10.45am
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Throughout the year, the team also run a regular series of FREE workshops, presentations, and business advice days. Come and find out more about what is being held in your local area.

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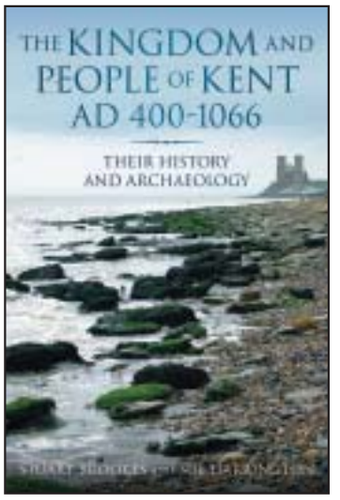
Book unveils our county's regal history

WEALTH, power and influence were all words associated with Kent when the county reigned as the world's first Anglo-Saxon and Christian kingdom, ***writes Steve Knight***.

For a brief period more than 1,000 years ago it was recognised as the most important place in England, noted for its power, culture, wealth and international contacts.

However, by the ninth century – long after King Ethelbert of Kent had died – the county had been absorbed by its more powerful neighbours and would never regain such a prominent status.

The rise and fall of the region is detailed in the new book The Kingdom and People of Kent AD 400-1066, described as the first publication to bring historical and archaeological evidence together to describe the story of Kent as a people and as a place.



It was written by Dr Stuart Brookes and Dr Sue Harrington, both researchers at the University College London Institute of Archaeology.

"A variety of different factors allowed Kent to gain the level of power it did," said Dr Brookes, who completed doctoral research on the archaeology of the county in 2003.

"Its proximity to the continent and close relationship with the Kingdom of Francia (now France) were two main ones, as it meant it had a monopoly of all these different resources and symbols that came across the Channel.

"Kent used these resources – like silver, gold and other Roman symbols of legitimacy – to exert its superiority over other kingdoms.

"However, by the time the Dark Ages came round the kingdom of Kent was already in decline."

The Kingdom and People of Kent is a chronological account examining such themes as migration, settlement, the making of kingship, the impact of the church, and warfare and defence.

Supported by maps, illustrations and black-and-white photographs of archaeological findings, the book looks at both the everyday experiences of people living throughout the period and the wider world which heavily influenced Kent's growth.

"It's a classic case study of state formation and how such kingdoms come about," said Dr Brookes. "How do people gain power, how do they exert that power over others and how does that power disintegrate? This book attempts to answer these questions."

Dr Brookes is also a lecturer for Oxford University and for Birkbeck College at the University of London, and a former research associate at the University of Nottingham.

The Kingdom and People of Kent is available now, priced £14.99. For more details see www.thehistorypress.co.uk.

Crazy for golf

THE fact a World Crazy Golf Championship even exists may surprise most people, but the truth is that Kent is home to Britain's second best player.

Marc Chapman, from Canterbury, is known in the dizzy world of mini golf as the Force and will be gunning for the top title this weekend.

There is £1,000 up for grabs for the winner of the event, which consists of seven rounds of the 18-hole course on Hastings seafront. It was designed and built by the sport's sponsor Castle Golf.

This is the eighth year the international championship has been held, and Marc is tipped for great things. The last time he played at Hastings, the Force scored an average of 34.9 over the seven rounds, including 20 holes in one.

He said: "I've been looking forward to this event all year. It's the most exciting competition to take part in domestically, due to the massive media interest.

"The pressure of making a putt whilst the cameras are on you and the crowd has fallen silent is immense. I've never experienced anything like it, hence my excitement to be back."

ABOVE PAR: Marc Chapman

Mr Chapman said he had had a meteoric rise since starting playing competitively last year, and with victory this weekend he will be guaranteed the number one spot at the end of the 2010 season.

He debuted in the event last year and finished eighth. Since then he has gone on to win three official titles, finished in the top four in eight official events, and captained the British team at the European Mini Golf Championships, coming away with the best foreign result in this country's history.

See www.minigolf.org.uk.

Fundamental changes the key to our future

TIME FOR CHANGE: Jonathan Kestenbaum

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

THE UK should follow the example of countries like Finland in order to return to financial prosperity, claims a leading economist.

Jonathan Kestenbaum – chief executive of the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (Nesta) – says such nations are better-equipped to deal with the global downturn because they have invested in their capacity for innovation.

The former Cambridge graduate gave a talk on the subject at the University of Kent this week.

"Sometimes it requires an enormous reorder of national priorities to turn a country around," he said.

Focus

"Finland is a textbook case. In 1991 it had lost its main trading partners and was suffering from high levels of debt, and it became very clear that unless the country focused on two or three core propositions it would go bankrupt.

"It was then that the Prime Minister of the time approached a small company that mainly produced wellington boots, and convinced it to focus on another area of its business that was potentially more lucrative.

"The name of the company was Nokia, and that decision helped turn the country around."

Mr Kestenbaum pointed out that at the beginning of the 19th century the UK was the trading capital of the world, and at the beginning of the 20th century it was the manufacturing capital of the world.

He added that just 10 years ago it was the financial services capital of the world, and the envy of cities including New York and Tokyo.

However, Mr Kestenbaum said those days were now well and truly over.

"Here we are in 2010 and all three of those positions have disappeared," he said.

"The first two will never come back, and from what I can see the financial services sector will not provide for the economy like it has done in the past in our lifetime.

"We need to take a fundamentally different look at how this country is going to make a living over the next 25 years.

"Where are our jobs going to come from?

"In six of Britain's nine largest cities, two out of every three people is associated with the public sector.

"These people are going to find it very difficult to find new work unless we take an entirely different view of what we want this country to look like."

He continued: "Who would have imagined the range of creative industries like animation and film-making would be providing more UK jobs today than the financial services sector is?

"What are the other sectors out there that might end up providing these new jobs? What will it take to create the prosperity that we need?"

Nesta is an independent body with a mission to make the UK more innovative by investing in early-stage companies and delivering programmes to inspire others to solve the economic challenges of the future.

Mr Kestenbaum visited the University of Kent as part of its ongoing Open Lecture series.

For more information visit www.kent.ac.uk/openlectures.

Our schools are above average for exam results

GCSE results for Kent are above the national average and even higher than first thought.

Provisional data revealed last week by the Department for Education shows that 78.6 per cent of students gained at least five A* to C grades in August – more than five per cent up from last year and 1.1 per cent higher than the original estimate.

In addition, 56.4 per cent of youngsters also achieved the benchmark of five A* to C grades including English and maths, up from last year's 52 per cent and 0.5 per cent higher than the initial figure.

Kent County Council cabinet member for education, Cllr Sarah Hohler, said: "This latest set of provisional figures is a good sign and results have increased year-on-year.

"This shows the county's schools are challenging their students so each and every one of them reaches their full potential."

Cllr Hohler also praised the 31 Kent schools included in the Government's National Challenge scheme, which enforces the requirement to reach 30 per cent of A* to C grades including English and maths by 2011. So far 27 have hit the benchmark.

Cllr Hohler said: "The schools in the National Challenge have also contributed to this fantastic overall result. Each has its own advisor to provide support and these results show we are moving in the right direction.

"We will do everything to make sure these schools can leave the programme next year."

The national average for five A* to C grades is 74.8 per cent, and 53.1 per cent including English and maths.

School-by-school results will be released early next year.

Pumpkin's on the menu as Howletts and Port Lympne get in the spirit of things

Zookeepers hand out tricky Halloween treats

HALLOWEEN is upon us, but this is no trick – two Kent zoos have treated their animals to their very own pumpkins.

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

Not only do these vegetables – or squashes to be exact – provide some fun for kids who carve scary faces into them, but they are also ideal for some of the animals at Howletts and Port Lympne wild animal parks.

Staff at the zoos dished out the pumpkins this week as part of a special Halloween trail for young visitors, which involved them following a trail of scary clues to help boost their wildlife knowledge.

Howletts' head carnivore keeper Jim Vassie said: "The tigers won't actually eat the pumpkins, but certainly enjoy playing with them and tearing them up.

Problem-solving

"It is a good bit of enrichment to stimulate the tigers' natural predatory instincts and keep them guessing. They certainly enjoyed the pumpkins this week and I am sure they will be happy to have any more that are left over after Halloween."

Other animals to enjoy the pumpkins included three black rhinos and the 18-strong troop of lion-tailed macaques, who had their pumpkins suspended to encourage problem-solving.

Port Lympne's head primate keeper Simon Jeffery said moloch gibbons, Guinea baboons and black-capped capuchin monkeys were also treated.

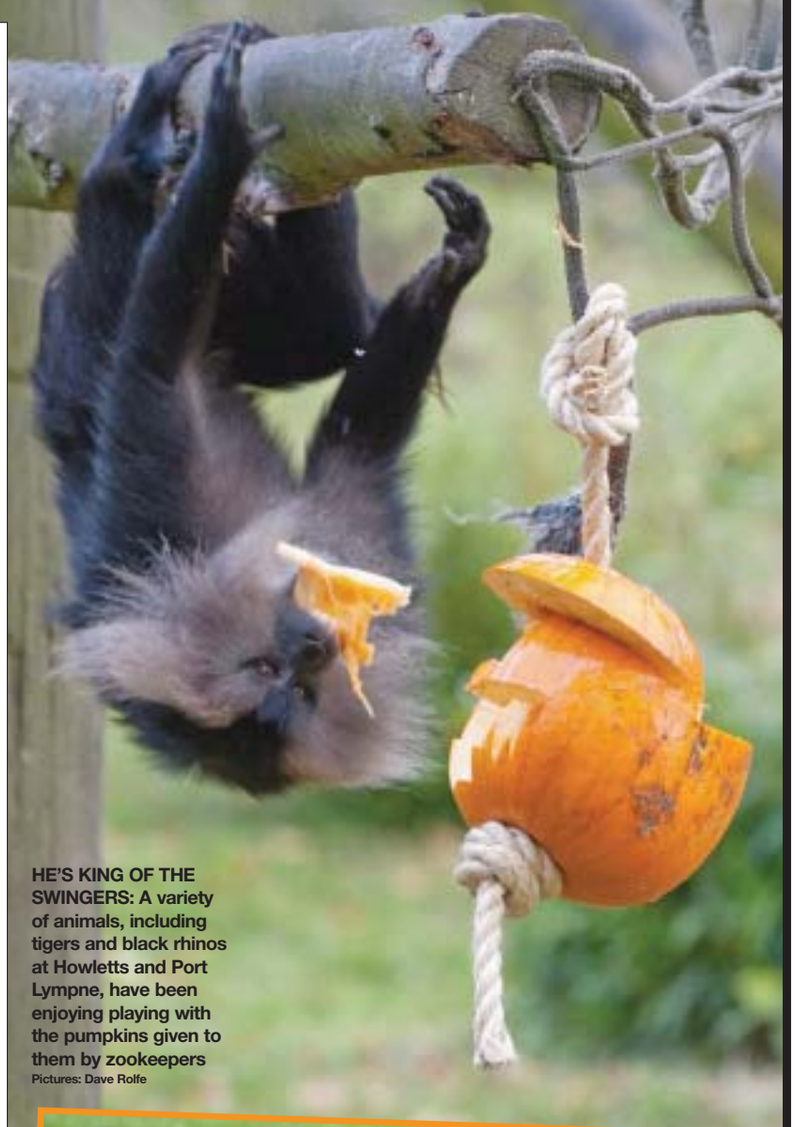
He added: "It is important to keep the animals at the park enriched, particularly the primates as they are some of the most intelligent in our care.

"Our primates eat a wide range of fruit and vegetables, and pumpkins are a more unusual and seasonal option for them.

"Giving them unusual feed or play items such as carved pumpkins helps to keep their diet varied and interesting, and encourages problem-solving as they investigate the new objects."

Meanwhile, the Halloween trails also drew attention to the fact that Siberian tigers and black rhinos are both endangered.

However, the Aspinall Foundation – which runs both of the zoos – is currently running breeding programmes in an attempt to slow their decline.



HE'S KING OF THE SWINGERS: A variety of animals, including tigers and black rhinos at Howletts and Port Lympne, have been enjoying playing with the pumpkins given to them by zookeepers
Pictures: Dave Rolfe

LETTERS

Foreign drivers hit unfairly

Imagine you have just returned from an enjoyable foreign driving holiday and while catching up on your mail you find you have received a speeding or minor traffic infringement summons from some place you cannot remember even driving through and have to look it up on a map to find it.

What do you do? To contest it would mean attending a court hundreds of miles away, in a justice system completely alien to you, in a language you do not understand unless you hire an interpreter, plus a local lawyer expert in traffic law.

All this would cost thousands of pounds, so you would just have to accept the fine and endorsement on your driving licence.

Of course these facts are not lost on the perpetrators of these summonses and would see 'foreigners' as an easy prey cash-grab, or for meeting prosecution 'targets'.

According to the article in last week's KoS, this is the system that TISPOL (European Traffic Police network) are going all out to achieve. All of course under the 'Trojan horse' safety banner.

Most people, through no fault of their own, are totally ignorant of the technical aspects of British motoring law and signage that allows those whose job it is to enforce the law to run rough-shod over them, with the added bonus that even if they lose a case there is no direct financial hardship to them personally.

Other countries are certainly no better and you may get an on-the-spot fine, but at least you are meeting you accuser.

Until we have harmonised traffic regulations and the real tangible proof of an offence, then this is just another total injustice to be heaped upon Europe's drivers.

Terry Hudson, Herne Bay.

OPINION: WE DESERVE FREE CROSSING

IAN TAYLOR calls for an end to the tolls and all the pollution they cause instead of penalising motorists even further with an increase in 'road user charges'

WITH a new government we have been promised "an end to the war on the motorist". To date we have seen some good news including M25 widening to go ahead and abolishing the London congestion charge western extension.

But now comes the blow that charges on the Dartford crossing are to be hiked to £2 next year and £2.50 the year after.

The original Dartford Tunnel dates back to the 1960s. There was always a promise that tolls would last only until the debt was repaid, which occurred in 2003, but then the Government reneged on all promises and made charges permanent, pocketing the proceeds. However, plans to sell off the crossing seem to have been dropped.

This asset belongs to the taxpayer; the latter has paid for this crossing many times over five decades, while enduring repeated broken promises over ending charges, and dishonesty by re-designating the tolls "road user charges" as an all-too-convenient legal nicety in order to retain tolls.

For most users of the Dartford crossing (more than 60 per cent are for journeys of over 100km according to the Department for Transport), alternative routes are either non-existent or inadequate.

The route of the M25 forces all drivers, especially freight (on which jobs and economic recovery depend), around London's edge – our most populated area – before adding insult to injury by operating a highway robbery policy that forces drivers to stop on a strategic national road to pay tolls.

This inconveniences everybody, including residents of north-west Kent who endure the knock-on effects of traffic queues on both approach roads.

Only a fool (or politician) would treat their best customers with absolute contempt by putting them through the daily hell of jams, causing totally avoidable additional expense in the form of missed appointments, wasted fuel, wear and tear on vehicles and serious health problems with air pollution in the Dartford and Temple Hill areas.

For years we were told the toll booths were "essential to control congestion". This being the result of computer modelling – never mind that such models are only as good as the data put into them, and therefore tend to produce the results desired by those who commission them.

This falsehood was exposed last year when a major power cut closed the toll booths and traffic flowed freely. In a rare show of common sense it is now being suggested that booths be closed to aid traffic flow at times of worst congestion.

So they admit, by default, that stopping to pay tolls causes jams, but compel you to agree the only way out is to accept road pricing, probably in addition to the already hefty motoring taxes.

The toll booths may be removed and replaced by electronic toll collection. Bearing in mind not all journeys are pre-planned, and with the number of foreign vehicles, the only practical way of doing this would be by ANPR cameras, which would spawn its own costly administrative bureaucracy and have serious privacy and civil liberty implications.

A possible engineering solution exists. Remove the toll booths and segregate HGVs from other northbound traffic through separate tunnels. Bad strategic planning has meant traffic has to funnel into Dartford to cross the river, creating congestion, even without tolls, so a more logical crossing would be somewhere around Gravesend. Ultimately a new Lower Thames Crossing (preferably another tunnel) has to come, as should the shelved Thamesmead Bridge, and both with adequate link roads.

The Association of British Drivers opposes all forms of road charging. Drivers nationally already pay £5.4m an hour in taxes and duties.

Scotland abolished tolls approximately two years ago. Tolls are a throwback to 18th and 19th century turnpikes – equally unpopular, at their extreme leading to violent unrest in the 1839 Rebecca Riots.

Around Dartford many groups campaign on this issue, we are more than willing to collaborate, and may be emailed at kent@abd.org.uk.

We ask everyone to join us in campaigning to end the Dartford tolls and honour the original promise of free passage across the river.

• Ian Taylor is the Kent spokesman for the Association of British Drivers.

KOS media COMMENT

Boris should give up on his airport dream

JUST when everyone thought they could breathe a sign of relief that Boris Johnson had got over his obsession with a Kent airport it all starts up again.

And this time it's not even the controversial 'floating airport' upsetting everyone.

Now the eccentric mayor is trying to breathe life back into old plans for an international airport at the Hoo peninsula – a proposal which was turned down seven years ago, an idea people assumed was completely dead in the water.

But Mr Johnson is so desperate not to see a third runway at Heathrow he is willing to risk rocking the Tory boat by continuously pushing Kent sites as potential locations for a new airport, even when the Prime Minister is publically against him.

This was proved on Wednesday when David Cameron told the House of Commons there would categorically be no airport in either the Thames Estuary or the Hoo Peninsula.

People will decide themselves whether to believe him, but going by the lack of confidence many seem to have in politicians these days it's doubtful he has allayed their fears.

Mr Johnson needs to realise it's not fair to keep worrying people with suggestions of building massive airports on their doorstep and it's even more unfair to try and resurrect plans which people fought hard to overturn.

If the Prime Minister is determined to win support from the people of Kent he needs to stick to his word, by proving he was not just saying no to an airport to please the crowd, but because he meant it.

Kids are in charge

IT'S that time of year again when the bogey man comes out and things go bump in the night. Or perhaps not.

The scariest thing for most people this Halloween will be the tiny ghosts and ghouls knocking on your door demanding sweets and threatening to do horrible things if you don't do what they say.

No change from the norm there then – except this time it's not your own children.

Teach them useful skills

Lauren Crowley talked of the 'death of the uni dream' (KoS 17/10), and that's about all it was for many as they were saddled with debts that stopped them progressing with their lives.

Labour first promoted this 'prizes for everybody' idea with the false premise that everybody could go to university to better themselves and further their job prospects, which is unsustainable due to the limited number of university level jobs and the fact we are not all academics.

The result has been to falsely raise people's expectations, getting thousands into massive debt before they've even started their working lives and ensuring there are a lot of very overqualified people working in menial jobs.

Also, due to this government interference, the country is seriously lacking in people with technical and manual skills, such as electricians, plumbers, electronics engineers and so on that we now have to find from overseas. Absolute madness.

Whenever governmental social engineering becomes involved, there's trouble. How much better it would be to assess children as they go through education and channel them in the direction that maximises their skills and abilities, rather than pretend we are all educationally equal.

But then that would be too much like common sense, something that was knocked off the curriculum years ago.

Phil Granger, West Malling.

Councils have more freedom

In the spending review last Wednesday, I secured a fair deal for councils which will mean they can protect the interests of hard-working families and the most vulnerable in society.

Given the debt we have to tackle, tough choices have been inevitable. But the deal we've struck has been to protect frontline services by cutting out bureaucracy. We're giving councils unprecedented freedoms and control over their money so they can decide how best to meet local needs.

To help them do that, we've set aside £650 million to fully fund a council tax freeze for householders next year. If your council decides not to put up your rates, we'll provide them with an increase in funding so services don't have to suffer and your pocket isn't hit.

We've cut the red tape which comes attached to public money, putting councils in charge of more than £7 billion to meet the needs of communities. Billions more will go to councils to support social care and the vulnerable.

We're giving councils new powers to borrow to invest in infrastructure and providing incentives for those who build homes. And we're scrapping the culture of targets which wastes millions each year and stops councils concentrating on what people actually want.

It's only right, then, that people will be counting on councils to use all this to protect frontline services. In order to do that, there'll have to be big changes in the way councils work: asking fundamental questions about what they do – or whether others like the voluntary sector, are better placed to deliver.

This is a big ask of councils, but I have every confidence they will be able to rise to the challenge.

Eric Pickles, Communities and Local Government Secretary.

There is an alternative

Cuts in public service jobs resulting from the spending review will be followed by cuts in the private sector.

Each public sector job, on average, supports a job in the private sector by household spending. Even regeneration jobs in Medway are being cut.

Kent's future includes more empty shop fronts, declining public services, a massive cut in social housing and reduced access to higher education due to increased fees. Commuters will be hit too.

We already have the most expensive rail fares in the world and our rural bus fares are about 50 per cent higher than on the continent.

The Government plans 10 per cent rail fare rises each year, and cutting investment in buses. For a county with thousands of commuters this means the pay rises many working people do obtain will be taken away by rising fares.

Making people redundant costs money, and nearly £4 million has been spent on this by councils already in Kent.

So what should we do to address the deficit; protect useful employment and rebuild our economy to make it more sustainable? First, dispense with the coalition's approach; there are always alternatives and many other countries are making bigger tax increases, not deep cuts.

Second, we must invest in environmentally-appropriate, socially-useful projects to create a more equal society which lives within the means our planet provides.

Steve Dawe, Kent Green Party.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400
For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday on 01303 817150

BIRTHS

BLACKWELL
Sam and Richard are proud to announce the birth of their beautiful baby boy Che Aiden Sean, born on the 15th October at 14:01, weighing 7lbs 14oz.

CHAMPION
Rebecca and Rupert from Old Wives Lees are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Eleanor Rose. She was born on 18th October 2010 weighing 6lb 13 oz. Many thanks to staff at Canterbury Birthing Centre for their care.

CHATWELL
Harriet and Peter celebrate the birth of their son Johnathan Henry on the 15 th October 2010.

CHUKWU
Christopher Chibueze born on 18th October 2010, weighing 8 lbs 14 ozs. Son to Dirichi and Frances Chukwu in Ramsgate.

JONES
Ellie-Marie Louise Jones arrived safely into the world on th 8th October 2010 at 02:36 weighing a healthy 7lbs 3ozs. Daughter to Sophie Hughes and Mathew Jones. She will be loved and cherished for years to come. Mummys and Daddys little princess. x x x

KIRBY
Paul and Katherine of Canterbury are overjoyed to announce the birth of their son, Isaac Michael John, on 17th October. Isaac was born at 12.46am weighing 7lb 10oz. A new brother for Emily-Mae.

MATTHEWS
Scarlett Eve born on 15th October 2010, weighing 7lb 7½oz. Daughter to Alex and Kym Matthews in Maidstone.

RIDGES
Lennon, born on 13th October 2010, weighing 8lbs 15.5ozs. Son to Sam and Rachel, brother to Morgan.

SLATTERY
Ella Elizabeth born on 16/10/2010 weighing 7lbs 10oz. Joyfully welcomed by Martin, Camilla and proud big brother Marcus.

WHITE
Kelly and Colin White celebrate the birth of their son Frederick James White on 18th October 2010, weighing 9lb 2oz. Brother to Olivia.

WOODCOCK
Elizabeth and David celebrate the birth of their daughter Melody Amber Woodcock on 17th September 2010.

DEATHS

HAYWARD
Ken Hayward of Dartford passed away peacefully after a long illness on 18th October 2010 aged 65.

LEDGER
Frank Ledger Senior died peacefully on 23rd October 2010. Husband to Margaret. Father to Dennis, Lynne, Christopher, Nicholas, Frank, James, Jonathan and Damian.

MURPHY
Sharon Murphy lost her brave battle with Cancer on the 15th October 2010 aged 47. Sharon will be missed by so many who truly loved her "My angel is now with the angels" Celebration of Sharons life at St Peters Church, Fenpond Road Igtham on Tuesday 9th November at 11am and at 12.30 Vinters Park Maidstone. Flowers welcome or donations to our chosen Cancer charity.

ROBERTS
John Arthur Roberts of Tunstall passed away suddenly on 17th October 2010 aged 90. Enquiries to High and Sons of Sittingbourne for donations to Wisdom Hospice Rochester Tel 01795 472958.

WATTS
John Patrick Watts of West Kingsdown - passed away aged 75 years on 12th October 2010. A true gentleman and one of lifes great characters. He will be deeply missed by his family, many friends and the "good life" he leaves behind. Service to be held at St Edmunds Church, West Kingsdown on 1st November 2010 at 1.00 pm.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

Change child benefit system

I agree with the mother of seven that it is ridiculous she will be losing £4,500 a year in benefits as a result of the welfare reform.

She has chosen to stay at home and look after her children properly but gets penalised and made to support others earning more. Two parents choosing to work and earning more than £44,000 between them should not receive child benefits.

Why don't you just pay child benefits for the first child and none to follow? This would stop many from having very large families who never work.

Carole Russell, Ramsgate.

'Good' news is a smoke screen

OK Cameron, so you are crowing about raising the pension to £140.

I notice there is no timescale on this so it has to be a red herring to take people's minds off the cuts and donations they are against.

Also the Lisbon Treaty is up for change so are you going to keep your pledge about asking the people or has that been swept under the carpet along with your other promises?

Raymond Tucker, Sheerness.

Party pairing is destructive

The last time the Liberals were in coalition with the Conservatives, the Geddes Axe paved the way for the depression of the 1930s.

This week we had the spectacle of MPs cheering the announcement of many thousands of job losses.

In return for 23 ministerial jobs the Liberals have helped to deprive whole towns of their livelihoods. The cuts in school building alone will cost tens of thousands of jobs in the building industry.

There is nothing new about the new politics. This is the same old Conservative policy that never changes and is always trying to take us back to a past age.

The 1957 Rent Act caused massive homelessness and created the evil of Rachmanism. Margaret Thatcher sold off the council houses without any provision for replacements. The present government's policies will reduce social housing to temporary accommodation.

The Labour government prevented the worst crisis of capitalism for a century from becoming a 30s style depression.

The Liberals are now helping the Conservatives to destroy the recovery and cause us to spiral into a depression.

David Burgess, Hawkhurst.

Robin Hood had right idea

I know we are in difficult economic times but there is one decision that could spare a lot of the tough ones.

A tax on the banks could raise £20 billion in the UK to help those hit by the financial crisis. For every cut I hear the Government announce, I keep asking – could a tax on the banks have paid for that?

The situation we find ourselves in started in the financial sector, we spent £1.4 billion bailing them out, and we are all paying for a party we weren't quite invited to.

I want to see my MP fighting for a tax that would make Robin Hood proud.

Peter Field, Dartford.

Apple industry is blossoming

I read with interest your article on the so-called decline of orchards and, as chair of the National Fruit Show, I think it would be helpful to offer a different perspective.

In Britain we satisfy 34.1 per cent of our market, with a target of growing half of the apples consumed in the UK and selling eating apples for six months of the year – targets which are realistic and obtainable.

Planting densities have increased dramatically over the last 50 years, and apple trees are now much smaller, more productive and planted closer together, which has resulted in smaller acreage producing a larger volume.

I was disappointed with your article as it made it appear our industry is all but finished when in fact the opposite is true.

In 2003 home-produced fruit was 23.9 per cent of the total supply of British apples to the consumer. By 2009 it was 34.1 per cent, which is a 10.7 per cent increase and a clear sign of a resurgence in English apple growing.

Sarah Calcutt, Paddock Wood.

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We are pleased to invite you to our

Sixth Form

Open Evening

Thursday 4th November 2010
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From **6pm** you will be able to look round the newly refurbished Sixth Form Centre and speak to members of staff including Mr. Waterman, Head of Sixth Form regarding aspects of Sixth Form life.

Fulston Manor Sixth Form works in partnership with Highsted Girls Grammar School and Borden Boys Grammar School, offering an exceptionally wide range and combination of courses in a successful and popular Sixth Form.

From **6.30pm – 8.30pm** there will be displays of subject stands for you to visit and speak to staff and students currently studying the subject

At **7pm** there will be a presentation in the Millennium Hall about all aspects of joining the Sixth Form at Fulston Manor and the online Connexions application process.

Fulston Manor will also give you the opportunity to develop your personal skills through volunteering, involvement in social activities or Sixth Form Committees.

Let us be a part of your success.

For further information please contact Mr. M Waterman - Head of Sixth Form on 01795 412608
mwaterman@fulstonmanor.kent.sch.uk

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ON THE ROPES: Having fun at the centre

Students achieve their high hopes

FOUNDATION learning students scaled the dizzy heights as part of a MidKent College team-building exercise.

The youngsters climbed high ropes, swung across monkey rings and walked across wooden beams 30ft in the air at the Arethusa Venture Centre in Upnor.

Programme area leader Sylvia Finlayson said: "Many of those enrolled on foundation learning programmes come to us with low self-esteem because they often didn't have the best experience at school.

"Coming somewhere like this helps them to see they are good at things, and it's great for their confidence."

STUDENTS from the University for the Creative Arts (UCA) performed their first staged event at the Canterbury Festival this week.

Imagine a Spectacle was held at the Theatre Royal, Margate, on Friday.

The event was organised in partnership with mi – a non-profit organisation which promotes positive change through art.

Home-improvement lessons at DIY store

By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

HOMEOWNERS unable to wire plugs or put up wallpaper are being given the chance to learn new skills not taught to them at school.

DIY giant B&Q is behind the scheme and has built new classrooms at five of its stores across the UK, including at Gillingham Business Park.

More than 20 different subjects will be on offer to customers, including painting and decorating, plumbing, tiling, how to use basic tools and how to carry out eco-improvements to the home.

The Gillingham centre was officially opened last Saturday by former Changing Rooms interior designer Anna Ryder Richardson, who also gave tips and advice as well as four DIY demonstrations.

B&Q chief executive Euan Sutherland said: "We all know what it's like; you want your house to look its best but don't know where to start.

Have a go

"It's one thing to explain to someone how to do a job, but to make it as easy as possible for customers we have created an area in-store where they can have a go before they start their project at home."

According to a survey of 2,500 people aged 18-65, only 59 per cent of under-35s know how to wire a plug compared to 86 per cent of over-50s. Just 21 per cent of under-35s know how to tile a floor or wall, while 66 per cent of homeowners have unfinished DIY jobs around the home.

The B&Q sessions last between two and four hours and cost £10 each, which will be returned at the end of the class in the form of a gift card. A kids' club for children aged seven to 14 will also be launching.

Those taking part in the adult sessions will also receive a 10 per cent discount card, valid for six months.

Mr Sutherland said: "As our research shows, there is a real need to address the skills gap here in the UK. Our new kids' classes are not only fun and free but an opportunity for young people to learn some of the basic skills they will need in later life when they themselves become homeowners."

New arts building named after director

THE chairwoman of Arts Council England was on hand to officially open the University of Kent's new £6.6 million Jarman Building.

Dame Liz Forgan – a former managing director of BBC network radio – unveiled a plaque for the School of Arts centre last week.

The building, which is named after the late iconic artist and former Dungeness resident Derek Jarman, houses drama and film studios, computing and editing suites, a large art gallery and teaching rooms.

Deputy vice-chancellor, Prof Keith Mander, said: "The arts play an important role in the life of the nation and are popular with students.

Our investment in this building sends a very clear signal at a time of difficult spending decisions that the University of Kent values its work in this area.

"Derek Jarman was one of the most important British artists of the 20th Century and is closely identified with Kent. It is very fitting therefore that this superb building should bear his name."

Acting head of the School of Arts, Dr Nicola Shaughnessy, added: "Jarman, much like a Renaissance artist, engaged in a wide range of art forms, many of which are taught in our school.

"He was a writer of autobiographical journals, a poet, a painter, a scriptwriter, a film director, a cinematographer and a set designer."

FAME: Derek Jarman

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If you would like to discuss the above positions, please contact Niall Warne, Production Manager or Matt Knight, Studio Manager.

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We are looking for NCTJ-trained reporters to join our busy newsroom. Candidates must be genuine all-rounders who are able to write across the various sections of our newspapers and websites, from news to features and leisure.
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Please apply with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to:
sandra.waghorn@kosmedia.co.uk
or in writing to Sandra Waghorn,
ARCHANT KOS MEDIA,
Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth,
Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS

About us

KOS Media publishes the UK award-winning Kent on Sunday newspaper and a series of free weekly newspapers, magazines and associated websites and mobile products.

The company produces kentnews.co.uk and yourkentTV, an internet-based TV service providing regional and local news, business and sport, plus websites for jobs, property and motors.

KOS Media's newspapers have won more than 10 national awards, including UK Regional Newspaper of the Year, and UK Free Weekly Newspaper of the Year six times.

In June, 2010, media group Archant purchased KOS Media.

Archant is the UK's largest independently owned regional media business

It is a community media company active in the fields of regional newspaper and magazine publishing, contract printing and internet communications. All its titles serve clearly defined communities, based around locations or interest groups.

Archant can trace its roots back more than 160 years and today remains one of the country's largest independent media businesses. As a private company it employs 1,850 people right across England. It has an annual turnover of £142 million.

The newspaper division, Archant Regional, produces four daily regional newspapers and around 60 weekly titles with a combined circulation of 2.25 million copies every week. It is a UK top six regional newspaper publisher. It also publishes many of the group's 180 websites and a number of its magazines.

Archant also owns three magazine companies, which between them produce around 80 magazines.

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2. It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of our media.
3. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
4. All rates within the annual advertising agreement will be rate protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.
5. Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All passwords and security supplied to the advertiser by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
6. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to change passwords intermittently to ensure the overall and ongoing security of its websites within the public domain.
7. Copyright and licenses for voice-over/music/photography or film for advertising promotions or otherwise within the various forms of media in print, online and moving film owned by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must have been sought, verified or paid for by the advertiser where applicable. Approval or permissions must have been given by any potential beneficial owner voice-over or music. The advertiser must be able to verify any statements or claims (promotional or otherwise) in relation to their products/services promoted within any of the media offerings belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd.
8. Where shrinkage of an advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre where it relates to the media owner's printed publications. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.
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10. A guarantee of insertion cannot be given and the media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owners for that advertising.
11. No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.
12. Claims for any error or inaccuracy in your media messages with KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publishing.
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14. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential vexatious action via the advertiser.
15. Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.
16. A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2008-June 2009) and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009). Discounts will be reapplied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
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19. The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV advertising commercial supplied by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd within the advertiser's agreement, (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of commercial). Should, for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production at its standard published hourly rate should the advertiser still wish to use KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice-overs or non-copyright free music it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to replace the TV commercial with pictures or stills from a choice of photography supplied by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
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    f. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
23. Any discount which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
24. Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
25. All private advertisements and certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
26. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
27. An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
28. Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's written consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

Effective from June 2008

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Please quote reference: CFE/010/0557

Closing date: Midday, 1 November 2010.

www.kent.gov.uk/jobs

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with Business and Enterprise status

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If you are, or have recently been, working with physically disabled students this post may be for you. The post holder is required to support our PD students with their learning and welfare needs in order to maximise their levels of achievement and independence. You will be required to undertake moving and handling training. Experience is essential.

Further details and application forms may be obtained from our HR Manager by email at k.allen@thamesview.kent.sch.uk or by telephoning 01474 566552 ext 8081120.

Closing date: 1st November 2010
Interviews: 8th November 2010

CVs without an application form will not be accepted.

Appointments to this post is subject to a criminal background check via the disclosure procedure.

Thamesview School operates a non-smoking policy

Thong Lane, Gravesend, Kent DA12 4LF
T: 01474 566552 F: 01474 537405
e: school@thamesview.kent.sch.uk www.thamesview.kent.sch.uk

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Committed to equal opportunities

Receptionist/Telephonist

required for January 2011 at
The Maplesden Noakes School.

Two days per week during term time
8.00 a.m. to 4.15 p.m.

The ability to work additional hours during some school closure periods would be an advantage. A good level of IT skills will be required.

Applications are invited by letter to Mrs. Sheila Gerry, Administration Manager, Maplesden Noakes School, Buckland Road, Maidstone ME16 0TJ enclosing an up to date CV and the names and addresses of two referees. Tel : 01622 656270.

Closing date for applications: Monday, 8th November 2010.

This post is subject to an Enhanced CRB Disclosure.

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We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

- **Programme Leader – Catering and Hospitality**
  Salary scale: £29,413 - £34,817 for 37 hours per week all year
- **Chef Lecturer in Catering and Hospitality**
  Salary scale: £25,589 - £30,205 for 37 hours per week all year
- **Lecturer in Hairdressing**
  Salary scale: £25,589 - £30,205 for 37 hours per week all year
- **Programme Leader – Trowel Trades**
  Salary scale: £29,413 - £34,817 for 37 hours per week all year
- **Lecturer in Plastering**
  Salary scale: £25,589 - £30,205 for 37 hours per week all year
- **Trainer Assessor – Health and Social Care**
  Salary scale: £9,500 - £11,500 for 18.5 hours per week all year plus achievement incentives based on income and performance
- **Business Services Administrator (maternity cover) Fixed term until the end of April 2011**
  Salary scale: £14,854 - £15,980 for 37 hours per week all year

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

Closing date: Friday 5 November 2010

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Part-time early morning cleaner

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Please email for application form
recruitment@rochester-college.org

Previous applicants need not apply
Closing date 5th November 2010.

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STONE BAY SCHOOL

SECOND DEPUTY HEAD OF CARE FULL TIME

SALARY £27,202 PLUS £1,621 WEEKEND ALLOWANCE SCALE KS9 POINT 29. PERMANENT 52 WEEK POST INCLUDING ALTERNATE WEEKEND WORKING

A second Deputy Head of Care required to work at this special school for children aged 11-19 with autism and associated learning difficulties, reporting to the Senior Care Team. Previous employment within a school or social care setting is essential, with relevant leadership/management experience. NVQ Level 4 qualification is desirable, but not essential as training will be provided.

A proportion of the working week is to be spent in direct care work/pupil support to an average of 75%. The post holder must be skilled in working with children and young people who present complex challenging behaviour. The successful applicant will have a track record of proactive approaches to behaviour management and will be required to manage the schools extended year provision, which will involve working outside of term time. Some holiday entitlement can be taken during term time by arrangement with Headteacher or Head of Care.

Stone Bay School is committed to the safeguarding and promotion of the welfare of children and employees are required to have an enhanced CRB disclosure. KCC final-salary pension scheme membership available.

Please phone 01843 863421, e-mail office@stone-bay.kent.sch.uk, or write to Stone Bay School, 70 Stone Road, Broadstairs, CT10 1EB for an application form.

Closing date for applications is Friday 12th November 2010.

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Accountancy

Taxation Trainee - Canterbury

Canterbury
Salary TBC
Burgess Hodgson is a leading firm of Chartered Accountants and business advisors in the South East. The practice has developed a strong reputation for training, developing individuals across a range of disciplines. We are looking for a trainee to join our busy tax department and become an important part of the Burgess Hodgson team. Applicants should have good A Levels or be educated to degree level. They will be expected to learn both on the job and through official examinations, leading to an industry-recognised qualification. Salary is commensurate with experience. Closing date is 5th November 2010. Please apply in writing with CV to: Barry Ryan, Burgess Hodgson, Camburgh House 27 New Dover Road, Canterbury, CT1 3DN Or by email to: barry.ryan@burgesshodgson.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Burgess Hodgson Chartered Accountants
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Administration, Secretarial, PA

Project Officer

Folkestone
Salary £18k per year
Project OfficerFull-time, fixed term 12 months, £18k per yearFolkestone, Kent Are you a good communicator? Do you relish a challenge, enjoy finding creative solutions, and thrive in a small team? We are looking for a Project Officer, to join our team as we work on the exciting Folkestone Seafront development project. This is a varied role which focuses on personal and online public consultation, communications and project support. For further details of the post and how to apply, please see: www.folkestoneharbour.com/developments/ or call 01303 212048Closing date for applications: 17:00, 8th November 2010 www.folkestoneseafront.com/developments.
To apply/more information:
Folkestone Harbour (GP) Ltd
Gabrielle.Wilson@strandhouse.org
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Full-time creative Personal Assistant

Ashford
Salary Negotiable
Full-time creative personal assistant for award-winning media companyReporting to the managing director and editorial directorThe successful applicant will need to demonstrate they have the ability to not only produce excellent reports and run senior directors' diaries, but also have writing skills that would not be out of place in our newsroom.You will be producing monthly management reports and minutes of board meetings as well as preparing copy for marketing, and on occasions supplying well written PR for our websites, newspapers and magazines as well as the wider world of media.This position also demands absolute discretion as the business develops in the coming years.The successful applicant must also have the ability to work to tight deadlines and be flexible when work demands dictate. Some knowledge of media, marketing or PR would be advantageous. We offer an excellent salary package, contributory pension, health scheme, and 25 days holiday per annum. We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation. Please apply with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to: sandra.waghorn@kosmedia.co.ukor in writing to Sandra Waghorn,ARCHANT KOS MEDIA,Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth,Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS.
To apply/more information:
KOS Media
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Transport Planning Assistant

Sittingbourne
Salary Negotiable
Transport Planning Assistant Tasks to include tachograph administration, placing orders, driver liaison, PODs. Applicant must have experience and be computer literate. Shift system in operation. Please send covering letters and CV's toBox 127, Applebarn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Kent TN25 6SSor email: lucy.williams@kosmedia.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Transport Company
clientmail@nicholls-uk.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Receptionist / Customer Service

Canterbury
Salary 14k
Working hours are: 31 hours per week
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Rec Aug10

Administrator and PA to Doctor

Canterbury
Salary 14k
Working hours are: 24 hours Monday 2pm - 6.30pm Tuesday 1.30pm -4.00pm Wednesday 2pm - 7pm Thursday 6.30am 12.30pm Friday 6.30am-12.30pm Are you looking for a change in direction or looking to take a new route with your skills? An opportunity has arisen within a rapidly expanding, exceptional health centre.The position is extremely sought after and is available immediately. We require minimum qualifications of 5 GCSE's Grade C and above (must include English and Mathematics), basic computer skills are preferable and some experience in a similar role although full training will be given. • Hard working and motivated • Enthusiastic and committed • Organised and efficient • Works well within a team • Thrives on self improvement and success If you consider yourself to be confident and outgoing and you have what it takes to make this role your own, please apply in writing with your CV to:
Dr Tracy Harley, The Wellness Practice Ltd, 30 Whitstable Road, Blean nr Canterbury, Kent CT2 9EB.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: PA Aug10

Marketing, Sales and Communication

Canterbury
Salary 14k (starting salary)
Hours of Work: 31 hours Monday and Thurs 6.30am-12.30pm, 2pm-6.30pm Tues 1.30pm - 6.30pm Wed 2pm-7pm MOTIVATED READY We are looking for someone who has an ability to communicate confidently with members of the public with a level of service that exceeds expectation. This role is office based within the health and wellness sector and also includes community based events for promotions. Only apply if you are interested in personal growth, development and a career. Whilst the role has a base salary depending on your demonstrative skills, there is huge potential for bonuses for any applicant. That is why you have to be the kind of person who enjoys having goals and helping people get well and stay well. If you love success, you are eager to help people and want to make a difference, please apply immediately or send you CV to: Dr Tracy Harley, The Wellness Practice, 30 Whitstable Road, Blean, Canterbury, CT2 9EB.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 2010-02

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01303 817040

PA to Directors

West Kent
Salary c£22,000
A rare opportunity has opened up with a prestigious company to suit a PA with established experience of working at board support level. Applicants must have an advanced level of Word and Excel with at least intermediate level of PowerPoint and excellent accuracy. The tasks include traditional secretarial supporting board and senior managers, plus extensive travel and accommodation organisation, fleet car management and supervision of a small support team.
To apply/more information:
Interpersonnel
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 1707

Receptionist

Tunbridge Wells
Salary c£16,000 according to experience
Our client is looking for a well presented receptionist with excellent communication skills. Carrying out the reception based duties you will also order company stationery, handle travel arrangements for management, be responsible for ordering refreshments for the board meetings and add-hoc administration. Proven experience in a similar role is essential. Due to location own car is essential. Start date early November.
To apply/more information:
Interpersonnel
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 1708

Welfare Assistant

Gravesend
Salary £14,099.00 - £15,984.00
To apply/more information:
Thamesview School
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

Business Services Administrator

Broadstairs
Salary £14,854 - £15,980 pro rata
We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancy available: Business Services Administrator (maternity cover) Fixed term until the end of April 2011Salary scale: £14,854 - £15,980 for 37 hours per week all year For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on ‘Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052. Closing date: Friday 5 November 2010 Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination
To apply/more information:
Thanet College
personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Receptionist/ Telephonist

Maidstone
Salary TBC
Receptionist/Telephonist Required for January 2011 at The Maplesden Noakes School. Two days per week during term time 8.00 a.m. to 4.15 p.m. The ability to work additional hours during some school closure periods would be an advantage. A good level of IT skills will be required. Applications are invited by letter to Mrs.Sheila Gerry, Administration Manager, Maplesden Noakes School, Buckland Road, Maidstone ME16 0TJ enclosing an up to date CV and the names and addresses of two referees. Tel : 01622 656270. Closing date for applications: Monday, 8th November 2010. This post is subject to an Enhanced CRB Disclosure.
To apply/more information:
Maplesden Noakes Secondary School
gerry.s@maplesden.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

Catering, Hospitality

Programme Leader - Catering and Hospitality

Broadstairs
Salary £29,413 - £34,817
We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancy available: Programme Leader - Catering and Hospitality Salary scale: £29,413 - £34,817 for 37 hours per week all year For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on ‘Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052. Closing date: Friday 5 November 2010 Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination.
To apply/more information:
Thanet College
personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Chef Lecturer in Catering and Hospitality

Broadstairs
Salary £25,589 - £30,205
We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancy available: Chef Lecturer in Catering and Hospitality Salary scale: £25,589 - £30,205 for 37 hours per week all year For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on ‘Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052. Closing date: Friday 5 November 2010 Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination.
To apply/more information:
Thanet College
personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Cook

Dover
Salary TBC
Riverlea House River Require Cook for alternative weekends and relief cover Please contact Mandie Johnstone on 01303 823935.
To apply/more information:
Select Healthcare - Victoria Lodge
riverlea@btconnect.com
Quoting Job Ref:

Child Care

RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE OFFICERS

Broadstairs
Salary £14,957 - £16,440
To apply/more information:
Stone Bay School
office@stone-bay.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Foster Carers

Kent
Salary TBC
Integrated Services Programme (ISP) is an independent, not-for-profit childcare organisation providing foster care to children with a wide range of emotional and behavioural needs. We have Centres in Kent, London, Bucks and Sussex. We were judged Outstanding in our latest Ofsted inspections. ISP looks after children from many different ethnic and cultural backgrounds including white UK, African, African-Caribbean, Asian and dual heritage. We are keen to recruit carers from similar cultural backgrounds. In addition, we are currently experiencing a high demand to look after: children with various disabilities, children who are involved in the criminal justice system and ‘parent & child’ placed together. IF YOU HAVE: • life experience • the ability to work with children or young people and parents • the ability to rise to the challenge of fostering • patience, determination and a sense of humour • no children under the age of 8 • a spare bedroom • a career change in mind ISP WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOUWe offer full training, 24 hour support and a professional fee of up to £770 a week for specific placements.
To apply/more information:
ISP Childcare
fostering.team@ispchildcare.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref:

Construction, Architecture, Surveyors

Programme Leader - Trowel Trades

Broadstairs
Salary £29,413 - £34,817
We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancy available: Programme Leader - Trowel Trades Salary scale: £29,413 - £34,817 for 37 hours per week all year For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on ‘Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052. Closing date: Friday 5 November 2010 Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination.
To apply/more information:
Thanet College
personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Lecturer in Plastering

Broadstairs
Salary £25,589 - £30,205
To apply/more information:
Thanet College
personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Domestic

Early Morning Cleaner

Rochester
Salary Negoitable
Part-time to work in a busy, friendly school. Immediate start subject to checks. Please email for application form recruitment@rochester-college.org Previous applicants need not applyClosing date 5th November www.rochester-college.orgStar Hill, Rochester, Kent, ME1 1XF.
To apply/more information:
Rochester Independent College
applications@kosmedia.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Education, Teacher, School

SECOND DEPUTY HEAD OF CARE

Broadstairs
Salary £27,202
SECOND DEPUTY HEAD OF CAREFULL TIMESALARY £27,202 PLUS £1,621 WEEKEND ALLOWANCESCALE KS9 POINT 29. PERMANENT 52 WEEK POSTINCLUDING ALTERNATE WEEKEND WORKINGa second Deputy Head of Care required to work at this special school for children aged 11-19 with autism and associated learning difficulties, reporting to the Senior Care Team. Previous employment within a school or social care setting is essential, with relevant leadership/ management experience. NVQLevel 4 qualification is desirable, but not essential as training will be provided. A proportion of the working week is to be spent in direct care work/pupil support to an average of 75%.The post holder must be skilled in working with children and young people who present complex challenging behaviour.The successful applicant will have a track record of proactive approaches to behaviour management and will be required to manage the schools extended year provision, which will involve working outside of term time. Some holiday entitlement can be taken during term time by arrangement with Headteacher or Head of Care. Stone Bay School is committed to the safeguarding and promotion of the welfare of children and employees are required to have an enhanced CRB disclosure. KCC final-salary pension scheme membership available.Please phone 01843 863421, e-mail office@stone-bay.kent.sch.uk, or write toStone Bay School, 70 Stone Road, Broadstairs, CT10 1EB for an application form.Closing date for applications is Friday 12th November 2010Kent County Council is an equal opportunities employer.
To apply/more information:
Stone Bay School
office@stone-bay.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Lecturer in Hairdressing

Broadstairs
Salary £25,589 - £30,205
To apply/more information:
Thanet College
personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Programme Leader - Trowel Trades

Broadstairs
Salary £29,413 - £34,817
We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancy available: Programme Leader - Trowel Trades Salary scale: £29,413 - £34,817 for 37 hours per week all year For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on ‘Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052. Closing date: Friday 5 November 2010 Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination.
To apply/more information:
Thanet College
personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Lecturer in Plastering

Broadstairs
Salary £25,589 - £30,205
We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancy available: Lecturer in Plastering Salary scale: £25,589 - £30,205 for 37 hours per week all year For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on ‘Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052. Closing date: Friday 5 November 2010 Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination.
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Thanet College
personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

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To advertise in this section or online
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Trainer Assessor - Health and Social Care

Broadstairs
Salary £9,500 - £11,500
To apply/more information:
Thanet College
personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

IT Service Engineer

Ramsgate and Client Sites
Salary £18K-£22K
We are currently seeking a highly skilled service engineer with the drive and determination to help us support our client base. This position reports to our Service Manager. We are looking for an individual who is a problem-solver and has a proven track record of working within a team environment to successfully address challenging user computing issues and is accustomed to utilising technical training opportunities to improve their skills. If you have the experience and the desire, we'd like to talk to you. Our service engineers are responsible for maintaining user uptime and improving their computing experiences through effective remote monitoring, maintenance and problem identification and resolution activities, as well as growing and developing the organisation's perception with existing customers through exceptional customer service. Candidates must be energetic and focused with a strong motivation to learn new technologies and management and maintenance processes. This position requires dedication, persistence, follow-up, effective utilisation of provided resources and unbeatable customer service. This position will include identifying user problems and working within a structured problem management and resolution process to remediate them within established SLAs, and involves working with other resources and vendors to deliver effective support services. Responsibilities include identifying, documenting and troubleshooting user computing issues to resolution and maintaining customer satisfaction. Job duties include utilising our remote monitoring and management (RMM) and professional services automation (PSA) solutions along with other service-specific tools and technologies to deliver remote user support services and update service request information, answer technical support calls, assign ticket severity, prioritise work accordingly, and collaborate and work with other staff and vendor support resources to resolve issues. Overall relationship management and the ability to coordinate required resources to respond to complex IT requirements are desired. Other requirements include participating in on-going training and attainment of manufacturer certifications, developing and maintaining relationships with user and vendor contacts, and preparing and presenting service and monitoring reports to management when required. Minimum Skills Required: · Relevant service engineering experience · Microsoft Certified Professional status· Excellent knowledge of our supported software and technologies · Strong interpersonal skills required to effectively communicate with users and vendors · Passion for teamwork, continuing education, problem solving and exceptional customer service· Must be well spoken, outgoing, organised, detailed-orientated, dependable and flexible; Detailed experience with HP, SonicWALL and Cisco solutions advantageous· Valid current driver's license This Position Entails:· Troubleshooting user problems over the phone and with remote control technologies· Accurate documentation of all activities conducted· Field based support and installation work· Participating in the weekly ‘on call' rota for out-of-hours support· The ability to manage, maintain, troubleshoot and support our users' networks, equipment, software and services ·

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The ability to learn quickly and adapt to changing requirements The Successful Candidate must be: · Professional and articulate · Interpersonally adept · Technically proficient · A relationship builder · A problem solver In addition to the salary for this post there are non-contractual bonuses to be earned for meeting utilisation, compliance and customer service requirements. Qualified candidates please download the application form at www.bcs-online.co.uk/application.pdf - If you have any questions regarding this position, please contact Gareth Johns on 01843 572604 or email gareth.johns@bcs-online.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Business Computer Solutions gareth.johns@bcs-online.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Information Tech, Internet, Telecoms

IT Support person

Ashford
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
KOS Media applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Folding Operators

Ashford
Salary TBC
Salary will be commensurate with experience. If you would like to discuss the above positions, please contact Niall Warne, Production Manager or Matt Knight, Studio Manager. Please apply in writing enclosing full CV to the address below. Alternatively applications may be emailed to gmorgan@cclind.com CCL Label (Ashford) Limited, Foster Road, Ashford Business Park, Sevington, Ashford, Kent, TN24 0SH Tel: 01233 503333
To apply/more information:
CCL Label (Ashford) Ltd GMorgan@cclind.com
Quoting Job Ref:

Litho Printer

Ashford
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
CCL Label (Ashford) Ltd GMorgan@cclind.com
Quoting Job Ref:

Studio Mac Operator

Ashford
Salary TBC
Studio Mac Operator: preparing artwork for litho and flexo plates, preparing artwork for digital presses and creating PDF proofs for customer review. A good eye for detail is essential. Experience with litho and flexo printing is preferred although training could be given to the successful applicant. Experience with PCs and Macs is essential. Salary will be commensurate with experience. If you would like to discuss the above positions, please contact Niall Warne, Production Manager or Matt Knight, Studio Manager. Please apply in writing enclosing full CV to the address below. Alternatively applications may be emailed to gmorgan@cclind.com CCL Label (Ashford) Limited, Foster Road, Ashford Business Park, Sevington, Ashford, Kent, TN24 0SH Tel: 01233 503333.
To apply/more information:
CCL Label (Ashford) Ltd GMorgan@cclind.com
Quoting Job Ref:

Leisure, Tourism, Travel

Qualified Assessors

Maidstone
Salary £18,200 (NQTS) - £19,500 (QTS) Pro-Rata. Fantastic Opportunities to further your Hairdressing Career through Teaching Apprentices! The Academy currently has full and part-time vacancies across the sites in Maidstone, Folkestone and Ramsgate for: Qualified Assessors with A Units/Diploma in Teaching desirable but not essential as training will be arranged. Starting Salary: £18,200 (NQTS) - £19,500 (QTS) Pro-Rata. CVs to nikki.buss@keithgraham.net Or post to Keith Graham Academy Head Office Unit 12 Heron Business Centre, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent. TN24 8DH - 01233 664171 Successful applicants will be subject to an Enhanced CRB Check. KGA Promotes Equality and Diversity.
To apply/more information:
Keith Graham Academy applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref:

Qualified Assessors

Folkestone
Salary £18,200 (NQTS) - £19,500 (QTS) Pro-Rata Fantastic Opportunities to further your Hairdressing Career through Teaching Apprentices! The Academy currently has full and part-time vacancies across the sites in Maidstone, Folkestone and Ramsgate for: Qualified Assessors with A Units/Diploma in Teaching desirable but not essential as training will be arranged. Starting Salary: £18,200 (NQTS) - £19,500 (QTS) Pro-Rata. CVs to nikki.buss@keithgraham.net Or post to Keith Graham Academy Head Office Unit 12 Heron Business Centre, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent. TN24 8DH - 01233 664171 Successful applicants will be subject to an Enhanced CRB Check. KGA Promotes Equality and Diversity.
To apply/more information:
Keith Graham Academy applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref:

Qualified Assessors

Ramsgate
Salary £18,200 (NQTS) - £19,500 (QTS) Pro-Rata.
To apply/more information:
Fleetway Travel hr@fleetway.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Management, Senior Positions

RECEPTION MANAGER

Dover
Salary Negotiable depending upon experience
Position: RECEPTION MANAGER Reference: TB/0610/dmSalary; Negotiable depending upon experienceLocation: Dover Marina HotelStart: As soon as possibleLeaf hotels are currently looking to recruit a RECEPTION MANAGER to assist in the running of their most recent acquisition, the 80 bedroom Dover Marina Hotel which is located in the heart of Dover's prestigious marina area. The Dover Marina Hotel is at present being extensively renovated and refurbished and is due to open in the last week in November initially as a 3 star hotel but with the aim of becoming a 4 star hotel at the next QIT assessmentLeaf hotels are eager to recruit a capable and experienced career driven professional to join their progressive team.The successful candidate will report to the Dover Marina Hotel, General Manager and will be responsible for reception, reservations and the night team. The duties will involve • Maintenance of 3rd Party Websites • Setting, training and maintaining all Reception standards, procedures and practices. • Managing and rostering a team of reception and night staff to cover a 24 hour operation • In cooperation with the Group Revenue Manager securing maximum room yield from activity. • Contributing to the recruitment, selection and training of departmental staff. • Controlling and managing the direct billing and aged debtors function. • Carrying out regular Duty Management shifts with responsible for The Hotel whilst on Duty. • Managing the Group Reservation system Contact: General Manager Email: david@ramadadover.co.uk Address: Dover Marina Hotel, Dover Waterfront, Dover, Kent CT17 9BP.
To apply/more information:
Ramada Hotel Dover gm@ramadadover.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: TB/0610/dm

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To advertise in this section or online
✆ **01303 817040**

Marketing, Advertising

Field Sales Roles

Maidstone
Salary Negotiable
Love Speaking to People But Tired of Call Centres? Our Client has been voted THE top telecommunications provider in the UK. Due to the success of our ongoing campaigns and the results we produce we are experiencing a heightened level of consumer demand, resulting in the expansion of our field sales department. Forget behind-the-scenes, this is a high-impact, high visibility opportunity where every day will be a different challenge - and it will be down to you to inspire, motivate and deliver every time. You will be motivated, confident and outgoing with good interpersonal skills. You will think like a leader with a positive attitude and be prepared to develop and grow. This opportunity covers various aspects of the marketing and field sales industry· Engaging with clients and customers, representing the brand at all times · Generating brand awareness and understanding· Producing accurate and appropriate written correspondence· Analysing campaigns effectiveness · Driving clients brand through sales and excellent customer service Working at J-K Marketing Services will provide you access to industry related events and seminars and ongoing development. If you believe you can rise to the challenge and you share our passion for excellence in all areas of field sales we would love to hear from you. Please send a cover letter with your CV to admin@ jkmarketingservices.com for immediate consideration or alternatively call 01622 691 730 for an immediate appointment.All applicants must be 18+ years of age and available for full time hours.
To apply/more information:
JK Marketing Services admin@ jkmarketingservices.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Commercial Sales Manager (Sports Product)

Ashford
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
KOS Media applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Media Sales Executives

Ashford
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
KOS Media applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Motor Trade, Driver

Drivers

Maidstone
Salary TBC
Extrastaff are recruiting for DRIVERS Class 1 and Class 2 HIAB and Moffat 7.5 tonne Multi-drop All must have digital taco and multi-drop experience Based in Maidstone, Aylesford and surrounding area. Please call Sarah on 01622 695555.
To apply/more information:
Extrastaff Ltd sarah.harbour@extrastaff.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

LGV C+E (HGV1) Drivers

Aylesford
Salary TBC
LGV C+E (HGV1) Drivers required to carry out store deliveries on behalf of a well known Supermarket chain. Various shifts available throughout the week - earlies, lates and weekends. Our client's insurance dictates that Drivers must hold a UK pass licence, be over 25, have 2 years C+E experience, and no more than 6 points for minor endorsements (no DRs or DDs). £9.25 - £14.00 per hour. Please contact Alex on 01622 664999 The Best Connection, Cornwallis House, Pudding Lane, Maidstone, ME14 1NY.
To apply/more information:
Best Connection Agency (The) maidstone@ thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KOS/AH/07

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Qualified & Registered Nurses (Clinical Advisors)

Coxheath
Salary Band 5, £21,176 - £27,534 + 25% unsocial hour payment
To apply/more information:
South East Coast Ambulance Service applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 278-CLINADVISOR-0510-JT

Registered Nurses

Tunbridge Wells
Salary TBC
REGISTERED NURSES - TUNBRIDGE WELLS Excellent rates of pay plus benefits and possible accommodation Our client is a 40-bed independent hospital set in beautiful countryside on the Kent/Sussex borders. They have excellent opportunities for nurses wishing to be part of a caring and committed multi-disciplinary team offering whole person care. For full details please call Neil or Sally on: 01227 780888 or email your CV to: medical@careerline.co.uk Ref: MH 2721.
To apply/more information:
Careerline Limited tim@careerline.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref:

Registered Nurse

Dymchurch
Salary TBC
BETHANY LODGE Dymchurch Requires: REGISTERED NURSE Day or Night duty. To join us in caring for Adults with a physica disability. For more information and an application form please contact the Manager on Tel: 01303 872289.
To apply/more information:
Bethany Lodge/Bethany House bethanylodge@btconnect.com
Quoting Job Ref:

Senior Night Care Assistant

Whitstable
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Saint Martins Care Home saintmartins@btconnect.com
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

Carers

Herne Bay
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Enterprising Opportunities M.Hawkes@ enterprisingopps.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Support Workers

Strood
Salary £13,250
Is this the job for you? ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, high-quality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now require the following staff to complement our team at our home in Strood. Support Workers Salary £13,250 For an application pack please visit our website at www.achuk.com Alternatively e-mail louanne.newman@achuk.com or contact Human Resources on 0208 502 8849.
To apply/more information:
ACH Care Homes Ltd michelle.jenkins@achuk.com
Quoting Job Ref:

Bank Support Workers

Gravesend
Salary £6.53 per hour
Is this the job for you? ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, high-quality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now require the following staff to complement our team at our home in Gravesend. Bank Support Workers £6.53 per hour For an application pack please visit our website at www.achuk.com Alternatively e-mail louanne.newman@ achuk.com or contact Human Resources on 0208 502 8849.
To apply/more information:
ACH Care Homes Ltd michelle.jenkins@achuk.com
Quoting Job Ref:

Night Staff

Dover
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Select Healthcare - Victoria Lodge riverlea@btconnect.com
Quoting Job Ref:

Other

EARN AN INCREASING MONTHLY INCOME...

Kent
Salary TBC
Earn an increasing monthly income... Generous Payments Free BMW Mini Luxury Holidays Company Porsche 1,000s of people can earn a second income in their spare time, in partnership with the Utility Warehouse. YOU COULD TOO! Make money by saving people money No experience necessary Fantastic benefits! Find out more! Call 0800 781 2433 Get paid every month, for work you do once! www.minibills.co.uk Home phone, Mobile, Internet, Gas, Electricity ALL IN ONE SIMPLE BILL *Best Buy www.which.co.uk.**To apply/more information:**
Utility Warehouse alanbarnett@telecomplus.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

Public Relations, Media, Journalism

Commercial Sales Manager (Sports Product)

Ashford
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
KOS Media applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Full-time creative Personal Assistant

Ashford
Salary Negotiable
Full-time creative personal assistant for award-winning media companyReporting to the managing director and editorial directorThe successful applicant will need to demonstrate they have the ability to not only produce excellent reports and run senior directors' diaries, but also have writing skills that would not be out of place in our newsroom.You will be producing monthly management reports and minutes of board meetings as well as preparing copy for marketing, and on occasions supplying well written PR for our websites, newspapers and magazines as well as the wider world of media.This position also demands absolute discretion as the business develops in the coming years.The successful applicant must also have the ability to work to tight deadlines and be flexible when work demands dictate. Some knowledge of media, marketing or PR would be advantageous. We offer an excellent salary package, contributory pension, health scheme, and 25 days holiday per annum. We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation. Please apply with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to: sandra.waghorn@ kosmedia.co.ukor in writing to Sandra Waghorn,ARCHANT KOS MEDIA,Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth,Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS.
To apply/more information:
KOS Media applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

IT Support person

Ashford
Salary Negotiable
Full-time IT Support person for award-winning media companyReporting to the IT DirectorThe successful applicant will need to demonstrate they have the ability and experience to support our Network, Servers, Computers and Telecommunications systems.A good knowledge of Microsoft server 2000/2003, Windows XP, Apple OSX, QuarkXpress and Photoshop is essential.You will be responsible for maintaining our servers and computers and responding to support requests from our 60-plus users. We offer an excellent basic salary, 5 weeks annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after a qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.Please apply with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to: sandra.waghorn@kosmedia.co.ukor in writing to Sandra Waghorn,ARCHANT KOS MEDIA,Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth,Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS.
To apply/more information:
KOS Media applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Public Sector, Social Services

Welfare Assistant

Gravesend
Salary £14,099.00 - £15,984.00
To apply/more information:
Thamesview School applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

Transport, Logistics, Aviation

Transport Planning Assistant

Sittingbourne
Salary Negotiable
Transport Planning Assistant Tasks to include tachograph administration, placing orders, driver liaison, PODs. Applicant must have experience and be computer literate. Shift system in operation. Please send covering letters and CV's toBox 127, Applebarn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Kent TN25 6SSor email: lucy.williams@ kosmedia.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Transport Company clientmail@nicholls-uk.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

LGV C+E (HGV1) Drivers

Mid Kent
Salary £8.50+ per hour
LGV C+E (HGV1) Drivers required for various driving assignments for our Kent based clients. Work available includes Supermarkets / Store Deliveries, General Haulage, Night Trunking plus more. Varying shifts :- Weekdays , Weekends, Earlies, Lates, Nights. £8.50+ per hour. Enhanced rates for Limited Company Drivers. Insurance restrictions differ between clients. In general, aplicants must be over 25, and have more than 6 points for minor endorsements (no DRs or DDs). Applicants must also be able to provide references for previous commercial driving experience. The Best Connection Employment Group, Cornwallis House, Pudding Lane, Maidstone, ME14 1NY. Telephone: 01622 664999.
To apply/more information:
Best Connection Agency (The) maidstone@ thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KOS/AH/02

LGV C (HGV2) Drivers

North Kent
Salary £7.50 -£11.25 per hour
We are looking for LGV C (HGV2) Drivers to work for our Kent based client on a temporary / on going basis. You will be delivering clean laundry and collecting of used laundry from hotels. Up to 20 drops per day. Drops can include both caged delvieries as well as handball. On some routes you may be accompanied by a Porter. Start times between 0400 - 1500, over Monday to saturday. Due to insurance, applicants must be over 25, and have more than 6 points for minor endorsements (no DRs or DDs). Applicants must also be able to provide references for previous commercial driving experience. The Best Connection Employment Group, Cornwallis House, Pudding Lane, Maidstone, ME14 1NY. Telephone: 01622 664999
To apply/more information:
Best Connection Agency (The) maidstone@ thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KOS/AH/03

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✆ **01303 817040**

Multidrop Van Drivers

Kent
Salary TBC
We are looking for experienced Mulitdrop Van Drivers to assist our clients with the increase in work up to Christmas. We have clients based all over Kent including Maidstone, Aylesford, Larkfield, Ashford and Canterbury. You will be expected to carry out 50+ drops per day, therefore applicants will need previous experience of similar drop numbers. Areas to be delivered to will include the ME, CT, DA, and TN postcodes. Due to insurance restrictions, drivers must be 25 and have no more than 6 points for minor endorsements (no DRs or DDs). Other assignments available for flexible drivers. The Best Connection Employment Group, Cornwallis House, Pudding Lane, Maidstone, ME14 1NY. Telephone: 01622 664999.
To apply/more information:
Best Connection Agency (The) maidstone@ thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KOS/AH/06

LGV C (HGV2) ADR Drivers

North Kent
Salary TBC
ADR drivers requried for various temporary assignments for our Kent based clients. Immediate starts available Work includes the delivery and collection of Clinical Waste, Gas, as well as General Haulage. Drivers must have a current ADR certificate, preferably for Packages in categories 2 Gases, 3 Liquids, 6 Toxic & Infectious Substances, and 9 Miscellaneous. Other assignments available for flexible drivers. Please contact Alex on 01622 664999.
To apply/more information:
Best Connection Agency (The) maidstone@ thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KOS/AH/04

LGV C+E (HGV1) Drivers

Aylesford
Salary TBC
LGV C+E (HGV1) Drivers required to carry out store deliveries on behalf of a well known Supermarket chain. Various shifts available throughout the week - earlies, lates and weekends. Our client's insurance dictates that Drivers must hold a UK pass licence, be over 25, have 2 years C+E experience, and no more than 6 points for minor endorsements (no DRs or DDs). £9.25 - £14.00 per hour. Please contact Alex on 01622 664999. The Best Connection, Cornwallis House, Pudding Lane, Maidstone, ME14 1NY.
To apply/more information:
Best Connection Agency (The) maidstone@ thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KOS/AH/07

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

EDDINGTON LANE, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of water mains replacement works, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Eddington Lane, Herne Bay, on or after 4 November 2010 for up to 13 weeks or until the works have been completed.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with A291 Canterbury Road and Eddington Way.

The alternative route is via A291 Canterbury Road, A2990 (Old) Thanet Way and Eddington Way.

The road will be closed in phases, as advised and signposted on site. The direction that residents can reach their homes will also be signposted.

Works will start from the Canterbury Road end working westwards. The exact timings of the phases will depend on the progress of the works.

Note that the road will be re-opened for approximately 2 weeks over the Christmas period.

MAYPOLE ROAD & FORD HILL, HOATH - (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of water mains replacement works, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Maypole Road & Ford Hill, Hoath, on or after 15 November 2010 for up to up to 22 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in phases between the junctions with Maypole Lane and the Pumping Station opposite Ford Cottages, as detailed below.

Phase 1 - between the junctions with Church Road and the southern junction with Maypole Lane.
From 15 November 2010 for up to 6 weeks

Phase 2 - between the 2 junctions with Maypole Lane
From 3 January 2011 for up to 7 weeks

Phase 3 - between the northern junction with Maypole Lane and the Pumping Station.
From 14 February for up to 7 weeks

It may be necessary to close Ford Road at the junction with Ford Hill during this phase for safety reasons, with a local diversion via Margate Road.

The dates of the second and third phases are approximate guidelines, and may vary subject to weather and ground conditions. The exact dates will be notified to local residents and signposted on site.

The alternative route for through traffic is via Hoath Road, Babs Oak Hill, A28 Island Road, A291 Sturry Hill, Herne Bay Road, Canterbury Road, A299 Thanet Way, Heart In Hand Road, Ford Hill and Maypole Road.

The junctions with Maypole Lane and Church Road will be kept open.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

SIR JOHN MOORE AVENUE, HYTHE - (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of junction modifications and the construction of a delivery access into the new Sainsbury's, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sir John Moore Avenue, Hythe, on or after 1 November 2010 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the east junction with Military Road.

The alternative route is via the west junction with Military Road.

CAESAR'S WAY, FOLKESTONE - (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Caesar's Way, Folkestone, on or after 19 November 2010 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Biggins Wood Road.

Caesar's Way is a cul-de-sac, therefore there is no alternative route. Every effort will be made to maintain access whenever it is safe to do so.

It is planned that these works will be carried out between the hours of 9.00 am and 7.00 pm, with the road re-opened outside these hours.

HIGHWAYS - District of Swale

STONEBRIDGE WAY, FAVERSHAM - (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Stonebridge Way, Faversham, on or after 4 November 2010 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed to through traffic from the junction with Beech Close to north of the junction with Finlay Close.

The alternative routes are:
Eastbound via Beech Close, Lower Road, South Road, Napleton Road, Tanners Street, West Street and Stonebridge Way.
Westbound via Stonebridge Way, West Street, South Road, Lower Road and Beech Close.

Access to Chart Close, Nobel Court and Finlay Close will be maintained whenever safe to do so, with the direction of approach advised and signed on site.

It is planned that the works will be carried out each day between the hours of 8.00 am and 7.00 pm, with the road re-opened outside these hours.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

KING STREET, MARGATE - (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of BT works to remove overhead cables and replace them with underground cables, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on King Street, Margate, on or after 1 November 2010 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

King Street will be closed outside numbers 14-18. There will be no access for though traffic between the junctions with Hawley Street / Trinity Hill and Broad Street. Access to Alkali Row will be maintained.

The alternative route is via Trinity Hill, Trinity Square, Fort Crescent, Fort Hill and Fort Road.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of King Street will be suspended, between the junctions with Hawley Street / Trinity Hill and the point of closure, when the appropriate signs are covered or removed.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

BELLS FARM ROAD, EAST PECKHAM - (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Bells Farm Road between Orchard Lodge and number 458 on or after Tuesday 2nd November 2010 when required for a period of up to 2 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Stanford Lane, A26 Maidstone Road, Court Lane.

EDF Energy Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to upgrade overhead power lines. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Ed Spalding on 01342 413633.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Mr Sivagnanam Ketheeswaran and Mr Thilakeswaran Sivanagnam of 153-155 Whitehill Road, Gravesend, DA12 5LS has applied to Gravesham Borough Council for the variation of sales of alcohol hours Monday to Sunday 6am until 11pm for the premises Costcutters situated at 153-155 Whitehill Road, Gravesend, DA12 5LS. A register of licensing applications can be inspected at http://www.gravesham.gov.uk/licensing or at Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1AU tel. 01474 337334 by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday. Any person wishing to submit representations to my application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 28/10/10. The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass in to the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm.

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APPLICATION FOR A NEW PREMISES LICENCE AT DESIGNER OUTLET ASHFORD FOR THE CHRISTMAS EVENT TO BE HELD ON 18 NOVEMBER 2010

Name of Applicant:
Ashford Investor (General Partner) Limited

Address of the premises where the event will be held: Designer Outlet Ashford, Management Suite, Kimberley Way Ashford, Kent TN24 0SD

The relevant licensable activities which are proposed to be carried out from the above premises on the evening of 18 November 2010 are:

1) Live music
2) Recorded music
3) Performances of dance
4) Anything of a similar description to that falling within 1-3 above

The register of licences held by Ashford Borough Council is kept at the Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL (where it may be inspected in the normal office hours of the Council) and at www.ashford.gov.uk.

The date by which an interested party or responsible authority may make representations to the relevant licensing authority is 16 November 2010.

Representations shall be made in writing to Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5,000.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Natalie Hunt of Turn Again House, Ash Road, Hartley, DA3 8EY has applied to Gravesham Borough Council for the grant of an alcohol license from the hours of 9am-12am for the premises Wild Stretch Limos situated at Unit 2 , Robins Wharf, Grove Road, Northfleet, DA11 9AX.

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at http://www.gravesham.gov.uk/licensing or at Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1AU tel. 01474 337334 by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to my application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 7/11/10. The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous.

Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm.

In the case of an application for a provisional statement, please note that representations will be restricted once a statement has been issued.

To advertise in this section

01303 817040

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

10/03313/HOUSE Burtons Crook Road, Brenchley
- Retrospective - Erection of replacement wooden garden shed (LB)

10/03251/HOUSE 22A Broadwater Down Royal Tunbridge Wells, Broadwater
- Addition of window on first floor side elevation with obscured glazing (work commenced) (CA)

10/03277/HOUSE Pound House Wilsley Pound, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Retrospective - Replacement of boundary fence and gate, and fencing within the curtilage (LB)

10/03450/FUL 12 St Johns Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden
- Change of use from office (use Class B1) to a residential use comprising one two-bedroom apartment and a four bedroom house with ancillary car parking and the formation of a balcony over the existing flat roof projection at rear (CA)

10/03329/LBC Frittenden C Of E Primary School The Street, Frittenden
- Listed Building Consent: Demolition of existing single storey attached wc's, kitchen and storage block; demolition of existing single storey detached nursery; erection of part two storey, part single storey extension comprising hall, kitchen, nursery, IT suite, library, MI room, wc's and storage (LB)

10/03370/FUL Fidgets Pre-School & Nursery Lamberhurst Vineyard, Lamberhurst
- Retrospective - Change of use of ground to form additional external play area to childrens day nursery along with associated vegetable garden, orchard and vineyard (CA)

10/03390/FUL Lamberhurst Vineyard Shop Furnace Lane, Lamberhurst
- Change of use of disused retail shop to office accommodation (CA)

10/03159/FUL 21 Vale Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Change of use of second floor from A2 to D2 massage/aromatherapy studio (CA)

10/03360/HOUSE Holly House 6 Camden Park, Park
- Demolition of existing side single/two storey extension and construction of new two storey side extension with rear swimming pool and pool house (CA)

10/03361/FUL Former Stables 4 Calverley Park Gardens, Park
- Demolition of garages and construction of one 5-bed detached house (CA) (LB)

10/03362/CAC Former Stables 4 Calverley Park Gardens, Park
- Conservation Area Consent - Demolition of garages (CA)

10/03364/CAC Holly House 6 Camden Park, Park
- Conservation Area Consent: Demolition of existing side single/two storey extension (TW/10/03360 refers) (CA)

10/03375/FUL Albans Barn Yard Romford Road, Pembury
- Change of use and conversion of barn to part holiday let and part family annex and guest accommodation (LB)

10/03358/HOUSE Downgate Silverden Lane, Sandhurst
- Erection of new stable block on site of existing heli-pad (LB)

10/03416/HOUSE Stone Cottage The Green, Speldhurst
- Extension to the north side of the house to form garage with bedroom above and study behind, and a conservatory addition at the rear of the house (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 30 October 2010

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

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Company profiles
Read about Kent's leading companies, view their current job vacancies and contact them with your details.

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Surf's up for new Mazda

By **STEVE LOADER**

OLD VW camper vans and minibuses are cool.

Values have shot up in recent years as people bought into the surfer image that these old clunkers deliver.

Never mind the air-cooled rear engine/rear-driven layout makes for a primitive life on the road – I speak from experience – they still deliver in buckets and spades when you pull up at the beach.

And maybe this is the place in the sun Mazda seeks for its new Mazda5 MPV after applying an extravagant wave design along the flanks.

All the same, King Canute might have warned that this wave thing can be tricky – in a bid to look cool, you risk being a washout.

Normally, Mazda is so sure-footed, having revitalised itself in recent years by creating a sporty Zoom-Zoom image and made the original Mazda5 fit its trendy line-up surprisingly well for a people carrier; it looked sleek, drove well and the sliding rear doors went with the brand's slick image.

Even the fact that it was barely a seven-seater could be overlooked, since the minimalist middle seat of the second seat row flipped aside to allow easy access to the two rearmost chairs and these were good enough to take adults, albeit not over long distances.

Do wavy lines on the new car deliver the same sportiness? I'm not so sure, and there will be some relief within the Mazda empire that wavy lines will not be washing over the rest of the Zoom-Zoom line-up – the designer responsible is now wearing his tie-dyes over at Renault.

Moving on from the controversial styling – you can put the surf board away now – there is a lot to recommend about the new '5'. It carries over much of the virtues of the previous car and that includes a driver-pleasing chassis borrowed from the latest Mazda3 hatchback – no slouch in the handling department.

This counters a frequent complaint from me that many MPV owners have such vehicles pressed upon them by the need to cart kids and dogs about at weekends, but then have to endure the usual sloppy MPV handling for far longer periods during the weekday commuting.

The Mazda, on the other hand, is a car for everyday needs and prices start from an everyday price of £17,695, for a well-equipped and well-executed MPV.

Three engines are offered initially: 113bhp 1.8-litre and 148bhp 2.0-litre petrol units and a 113bhp diesel.

The flagship petrol features Mazda's emissions-busting stop/start i-stop technology; in this case Mazda claims an economy boost of 14.2 per cent to average around 40mpg and emissions cut of 15 per cent to 159g/km over the old car's 2.0-litre petrol version.

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2007 (57) FORD FIESTA STYLE CLIMATE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, MAUVEPURPLEVIOLET, 3000 miles £6,495
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2009 (09) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles £10,995
2008 (58) FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 3000 miles £9,995
2008 (57) FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 7000 miles £8,995
2008 (08) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 4000 miles £8,995
2007 (07) FORD FOCUS ZETEC CLIMATE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £6,995
2007 (07) FORD FOCUS ZETEC CLIMATE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles £6,995
2007 (07) FORD FOCUS ZETEC CLIMATE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 14000 miles £6,995
2005 (55) FORD FOCUS GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 27000 miles £6,495

FOCUS ESTATES

2006 (56) FORD FOCUS GHIA 16V ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 23000 miles £7,495
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RENAULT SCENIC

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2008 (08) RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, RED, 6000 miles £7,995
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2006 (56) RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 16000 miles £6,495
2007 (07) RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, BLACK, 15000 miles £6,495
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RENAULT

2010 (60) RENAULT GRAND MODUS DYNAMIQUE VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 800 miles £10,995
2008 (57) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, RED, 5000 miles £10,995
2008 (08) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, GREY, 11000 miles £9,995
2008 (08) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 7STR MPV AUTO, GREEN, 15000 miles £8,995
2006 (56) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles £8,995
2006 (56) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 23000 miles £7,995
2006 (06) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles £7,995
2006 (56) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles £7,995
2008 (58) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GREY, 1500 miles £7,995
2008 (08) RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles £6,995
2008 (58) RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 750 miles £6,995
2005 (05) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT COUPE CABRIOLET CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 38000 miles £6,995
2006 (56) RENAULT LAGUNA EXPRESSION SPORT TOURER 16V ESTATE AUTO, GREY, 8000 miles £6,995
2006 (06) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 ESTATE AUTO, GOLD, 17000 miles £5,995
2007 (07) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GREY, 16000 miles £5,995
2007 (07) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, RED, 13000 miles £5,495
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CHEVROLET

2008 (08) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles £6,995
2009 (58) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX ESTATE AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles £6,995
2008 (58) CHEVROLET AVEO LT 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 999 miles £6,995
2009 (09) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles £6,995
2009 (09) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1200 miles £6,495
2008 (08) CHEVROLET KALOS SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £5,995
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2008 (08) HYUNDAI COUPE SIII COUPE AUTO, BLACK, 4000 miles £9,995
2007 (56) HYUNDAI COUPE SIII COUPE AUTO, RED, 4000 miles £8,995
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2008 (08) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles £5,995
2008 (08) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles £5,995
2008 (08) HYUNDAI MATRIX CLASSIC MPV, BLACK, 8000 miles £5,995
2007 (57) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, YELLOW, 9000 miles £5,495
2007 (07) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £5,495

KIA

2008 (58) KIA PICANTO 2 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles £6,995
2009 (09) KIA PICANTO 2 5DR HATCH AUTO, ORANGE, 2000 miles £6,995
2005 (05) KIA CERATO LX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 27000 miles £3,495

DAIHATSU

2008 (08) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles £7,995
2008 (08) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £7,995
2007 (57) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £7,495
2007 (07) DAIHATSU SIRION 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 20000 miles £6,995
2007 (07) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles £6,995

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2005 (55) BMW 3 SERIES 320D ES TOURING 6SPD MANUAL TD ESTATE, GREY, 5100 miles £11,995

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2006 (56) FIAT PANDA ELEGANZA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles £4,995
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2010 (59) FORD FUSION TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1400 miles £9,995
2008 (08) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 13000 miles £7,995
2008 (08) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 3000 miles £7,995
2008 (08) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles £7,995
2007 (07) FORD FUSION ZETEC CLIMATE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 4000 miles £5,995

CITROEN

2010 (60) CITROEN NEMO 8V HDI TURBO MPV AUTO, RED, 100 miles £10,495
2008 (58) CITROEN C4 SX 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 1800 miles £8,995
2002 (02) CITROEN SAXO DESIRE 3DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 54000 miles £2,995

MONDEO

2006 (56) FORD MONDEO LX 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 24000 miles £6,995

CORSA

2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles £11,495
2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 6000 miles £10,995
2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA EXCLUSIV AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 6000 miles £9,995
2009 (09) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 4000 miles £8,995
2008 (58) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles £8,495
2008 (58) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 2000 miles £8,495
2008 (58) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £8,495
2007 (57) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 6000 miles £6,995
2008 (57) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles £6,995
2006 (56) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, MAUVE, 19000 miles £6,495
2005 (05) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN CDTI 16V 5DR TD HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 65000 miles £3,995

MAZDA

2008 (58) MAZDA 5 5 TS2 MPV AUTO, RED, 12000 miles £11,995
2008 (58) MAZDA 3 3 TAKARA 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 5000 miles £9,995
2007 (57) MAZDA 3 3 TS 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 8000 miles £8,995
2006 (56) MAZDA 6 6 TS 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 16000 miles £7,995
2006 (56) MAZDA 6 6 TS 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 21000 miles £7,995
2007 (56) MAZDA 2 2 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles £5,995

SUZUKI

2009 (59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 450 miles £9,995
2007 (07) SUZUKI IGNIS GL VVT-S 5DR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 9000 miles £5,995

TOYOTA

2007 (6) TOYOTA RAV-4 XT3 VVT-I ESTATE AUTO 4x4, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles £13,995
2007 (07) TOYOTA RAV-4 XT3 VVT-I ESTATE AUTO 4x4, BLUE, 16000 miles £13,995
2007 (07) TOYOTA RAV-4 XT3 VVT-I ESTATE AUTO 4x4, GREY, 16000 miles £13,995
2007 (07) TOYOTA COROLLA VERSO T3 VVT-I MPV AUTO, RED, 25000 miles £9,995
2007 (07) TOYOTA AURIS T3 VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles £8,995
2007 (56) TOYOTA COROLLA T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, IXION BLUE, 13000 miles £8,995
2007 (56) TOYOTA COROLLA T3 COLOUR COLLECTION VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles £8,995
2006 (56) TOYOTA COROLLA VERSO T3 VVT-I MPV AUTO, BLACK, 11000 miles £8,995
2007 (07) TOYOTA COROLLA T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £8,995
2008 (58) TOYOTA YARIS T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles £8,495
2008 (08) TOYOTA YARIS T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, VENETIAN SILVER, 14000 miles £7,995
2005 (05) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £6,995
2007 (07) TOYOTA YARIS T3 VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 21000 miles £6,995
2005 (55) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 5000 miles £6,995
2004 (54) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1750 miles £6,995
2004 (04) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, CRYSTAL SILVER, 6000 miles £6,295
2004 (04) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH, BLACK, 25000 miles £5,995

NISSAN

2009 (09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAFFE LATTE, 11000 miles £14,995
2008 (58) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £14,495
2008 (08) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £13,995
2007 (07) NISSAN QASHQAI VISIA 5DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 21000 miles £10,995
2007 (07) NISSAN QASHQAI VISIA 5DR HATCH AUTO, FIRED IRON, 19000 miles £10,995
2009 (09) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, CAFFE LATTE, 6000 miles £9,495
2009 (59) NISSAN NOTE VISIA MPV AUTO, GREY, 1800 miles £8,995
2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £8,995
2006 (06) NISSAN MICRA CC SPORT CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles £7,995
2008 (08) NISSAN NOTE ACENTA MPV AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles £7,995
2008 (08) NISSAN NOTE ACENTA MPV AUTO, RED, 14000 miles £7,995
2007 (07) NISSAN MICRA SPORT CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £7,995
2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles £6,995
2007 (07) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAFFE LATTE, 18000 miles £5,995
2006 (56) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles £5,995
2007 (07) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 27000 miles £5,995
2007 (07) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAFE LATTE, 8000 miles £5,995
2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 14000 miles £5,995
2004 (54) NISSAN ALMERA TINO S 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 31000 miles £4,995
2004 (04) NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH AUTO, ARUBA BLUE, 12000 miles £4,995
2004 (04) NISSAN MICRA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 27000 miles £4,695

ASTRA HATCHBACKS

2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE CDTI 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, PANNACOTTA, 11000 miles £10,995
2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 HATCH AUTO, SILVER, 9000 miles £7,995
2008 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 14000 miles £7,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles £7,995
2007 (07) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles £6,995
2008 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, TURQUOISE, 10000 miles £5,995
2008 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 2000 miles £5,995
2004 (54) VAUXHALL ASTRA CLUB 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 31000 miles £4,995

ASTRA ESTATES

2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles £7,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO, PANNACOTTA, 15000 miles £7,995
2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £7,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, SILVER, 14000 miles £6,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles £6,995
2006 (56) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V ESTATE AUTO, PANNACOTTA, 13000 miles £6,495
2006 (56) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V ESTATE AUTO, BLACK, 11000 miles £5,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles £5,995

ZAFIRA MERIVA & AGILA

2009 (59) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, BLACK, 750 miles £13,995
2009 (09) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, GREEN, 7000 miles £12,995
2010 (10) VAUXHALL MERIVA DESIGN 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles £10,995
2009 (09) VAUXHALL AGILA DESIGN 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £9,495
2009 (59) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, GOLD, 2000 miles £8,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLACK, 10000 miles £8,995
2009 (59) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles £8,995
2007 (07) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles £8,495
2006 (56) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, SILVER LIGHTNING, 16000 miles £7,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL AGILA CLUB MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles £7,995
2007 (07) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, TURQUOISE, 7000 miles £7,995
2007 (07) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles £6,995
2006 (56) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles £6,495
2008 (58) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 7000 miles £5,995
2004 (54) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 78000 miles £3,995

CHRYSLER

2007 (57) CHRYSLER PT CRUISER LIMITED 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 13000 miles £6,995

PEUGEOT

2008 (08) PEUGEOT 207 SPORT 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles £7,995
2007 (57) PEUGEOT 206 LOOK 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 2000 miles £6,995
2007 (07) PEUGEOT 307 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 17000 miles £6,495
2007 (07) PEUGEOT 107 URBAN 2-TRONIC 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 4000 miles £5,995
2006 (56) PEUGEOT 307 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles £5,995
2006 (56) PEUGEOT 307 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles £5,995

HONDA

2007 (07) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC ES 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, GREY, 24000 miles £17,995
2007 (07) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, BLACK, 19000 miles £15,995
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2009 (09) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 3000 miles £10,995
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08 08 Citroen C3 1.6 HDi 16V Exclusive 5dr BLUE 15502	£9000	£7795	£1205
07 07 Citroen C4 Picasso 1.8 VTR Plus 7str 16v BLUE 31k	£8790	£7495	£1295
07 07 Daihatsu Sirion 1.0 SE 5dr Silver 13190	£6400	£5495	£905
08 08 Fiat Grande Punto 1.4 16V T-Jet Sport 3dr Red 35k	£6400	£6195	£205
08 58 Ford Fiesta 1.25 Style 5dr [Climate] Black 14139	£6999	£6199	£800
09 58 Ford Fiesta 1.4 TDCi Style + 3dr BLUE 37k	£8299	£7995	£304
09 58 Ford Focus 1.6 Style 5dr BLUE 27342	£8940	£7395	£1545
08 58 Ford Focus 1.8 TDCi Style 5dr Black 16753	£9940	£9000	£940
09 59 Ford Ka 1.2 Zetec 3dr MOONDUST SILVER 6464	£8700	£8195	£505
10 10 Kia Ceed 1.6 CRDi 89 1 5dr White 3954	£11995	£10000	£1995
10 10 Kia Ceed 1.6 CRDi 89 1 5dr White 6486	£11995	£10000	£1995
09 59 Kia Ceed 2 Cdri Ecodynamics 5dr Red 9497	£12299	£10590	£1709
09 09 Kia Ceed SW 1.6 CRDi 5dr White 3179	£13380	£12000	£1380
08 58 Kia Ceed SW LS CRDi Black 56000	£7495	£7000	£495
08 08 Kia Picanto 1.0 5dr Black 20094	£6025	£5000	£1025
05 05 Kia Picanto 5dr Hat 1.1 Orange 34690	£3750	£3299	£451
05 05 Kia Rio 1.3 LE 5dr Black 63944	£2750	£2499	£251
07 07 Kia Sorento 2.5 CRDi XS 5dr Blue 39869	£13499	£13000	£499
09 09 Kia Soul 1.6 2 5dr Silver 12253	£10200	£9499	£701
09 59 Renault Megane 1.4 16V TCE Dyn 5dr White 5483	£13999	£11000	£2999
07 56 Renault Megane 1.9 dCi 130 Dyn 5dr Silver 40391	£6700	£5799	£901
08 58 Seat Altea XL 2.0 TDI Stylance 5dr Grey 1887	£13200	£12200	£1000
07 57 Seat Altea XL 2.0 TDI Stylance 5dr Red 31070	£10065	£9299	£766
09 59 Seat EXEO 2.0 TDI CR SE Lux 4dr [170] Blue 6061	£17345	£15499	£1846
08 58 Seat Ibiza 1.2 S 3dr [AC] Black 16230	£8000	£7299	£701
09 09 Seat Ibiza 1.4 SE 3dr LUNA GREY 15816	£9275	£8000	£1275
09 09 Seat Ibiza 1.4 Sport 3dr Silver 20146	£8700	£8000	£700
10 10 Seat Ibiza 1.4 TDI Ecomotive 3dr Red 6089	£11499	£11190	£309
10 10 Seat Ibiza 1.4 TDI S 3dr [AC] Silver 1486	£11499	£9490	£2009
10 59 Seat Ibiza 1.6 TDI CR Sport 3dr Yellow 1829	£12020	£11000	£1020
09 09 Seat Ibiza Sport 3dr Yellow 19158	£8645	£8499	£146
09 58 Seat Leon 2.0 16V T FSI Cupra 5dr Blue 5976	£16995	£16000	£995
08 58 Seat Leon 2.0 16V T FSI Cupra 5dr Orange 4268	£15999	£14499	£1500
08 58 Seat Leon 2.0 16V T FSI FR 5dr Magic 1830	£14085	£12499	£1586
09 59 Seat Leon 2.0 TSI Cupra 5dr Black 5020	£18700	£16799	£1901
09 59 Toyota IQ 1.0 VVT-i 3dr TYROL SILVER 6915	£8990	£8395	£595
08 08 Vauxhall Astra 1.4i 16V SXi 3dr Black 13000	£8500	£8000	£500
09 09 Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Life Ac 5dr BLACK 11843	£8700	£7295	£1405
06 06 Vauxhall Astra Cab 2.0T 16V Design 2dr Silver 22100	£10000	£9000	£1000
08 57 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Life Ac 3dr ULTRA BLUE 17272	£6600	£5795	£805
07 07 Vauxhall Meriva 1.6i 16V Life 5dr Easyt Blue 3656	£6700	£5799	£901
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06 06 BMW 3 Series 318i M Sport 4dr Blue 58808	£10975	£10900	£75
07 57 BMW 3 Series 320d M Sport 4dr Blue 29537	£16505	£14495	£2010
07 07 BMW 3 Series 320d SE 4dr Jet Black 51789	£12665	£12000	£665
06 56 BMW 5 Series 520d M Sport i-drive Blue 76354	£15030	£14299	£731
07 07 Citroen C4 Picasso 1.6HDi 16V SX 5dr Red 34448	£9005	£8699	£306
08 58 Citroen C4 Pic1.6HDi 16V VTR Plus 5dr Grey Met 26k	£11490	£10499	£991
08 58 Fiat Grande Punto 1.3 5dr Auto Blue 6276	£8325	£8000	£325
09 09 Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec 5dr BLACK 16910	£9165	£8895	£270
09 59 Ford Focus Estate 1.6 Zetec 5dr Auto Blue 7740	£10470	£10000	£470
09 59 Ford S-Max 2.0 TDCi Zetec 5dr Silver 25258	£15585	£14999	£586
07 07 Honda Accord Estate 2.2 i-CTDi EX 5dr Brown 29k	£12115	£11499	£616
06 56 Honda FR-V 2.2 i-CTDi SE 5dr Sparkle Grey Met 62k	£9100	£9000	£100
07 07 Honda Jazz 1.4 i-DSi Sport 5dr Red 39173	£6550	£6499	£51
07 57 Jaguar X-type 2.0d S 4dr Black 44541	£10355	£10000	£355
09 59 Kia Ceed 1.6 CRDi GS 5dr Red 7579	£10635	£9995	£640
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07 57 Kia Ceed 1.6 LS Crdi 5dr Englsh Pewter m 11113	£9585	£9295	£290
07 57 Lexus IS 220d 4dr Brechin Slate 37340	£11775	£11499	£276
07 57 Mazda Mazda5 2.0d Sport 5dr Black 67420	£9555	£8799	£756
07 07 Mercedes B Class B180 CDI 5dr Black 39593	£10610	£10000	£610
08 08 Mercedes C Class C180 KompSE Sports Silver 17k	£13930	£12699	£1231
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08 58 Toyota Corolla Verso 1.6 VVT-i T2 5dr Blue Met 16k	£10110	£10000	£110
06 56 Toyota RAV-4 2.0 VVT-i XT3 5dr Grey 17742	£12350	£11395	£955
08 08 Vauxhall Astra 1.6T 16V SRi 3dr Black 18523	£10750	£9500	£1250
07 07 Vauxhall Astra Coupe 1.8i VVT SRi 3dr Black 31805	£8145	£8000	£145
08 58 Vaux Astra Coupe 1.9 CDTi 16V SRi 3dr Bck 16k	£11230	£9499	£1731
09 09 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4i 16V Club 5dr Auto [AC] Black 13k	£8190	£7799	£391
07 07 Vauxhall Zafira 1.9 CDTi Design 5dr Grey Met 44472	£9355	£9000	£355
08 08 Volkswagen Touran 2.0 TDI DPF Sport 5dr Silver 22k	£14900	£14500	£400
07 07 Volvo S40 1.6 S 4dr Grey 12035	£8430	£7995	£435

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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

Civic facelift takes on 'Type R' styling

HONDA has revamped its futuristic British-built Civic hatchback for 2011, adding to its striking appearance and passenger comfort without hiking prices at a sensitive time for hard-pressed consumers.

Available from £13,995 for the 1.4 Type S, the new Civics feature a new front grille inspired by the 'Type R' hot hatch version, but also designed to create a more upmarket face for the car.

There is also a whole new range of alloy wheels, now fitted as standard, and buyers need only upgrade from the entry level S trim to SE and ES level and they get half fabric and luxurious Alcantara seats, while the sporty Si is now half leather and Alcantara with heated front seats.

Mondeo heads up the used car all-star team

AS CAR buyers look to tighten their belts even further, the annual What Car? Used Car of the Year awards have assumed greater importance.

And the Ford Mondeo's overall victory this year reminds everyone that the UK new car market leader also continues to appeal to hard-headed second-hand buyers.

However, there was a warning of emerging power from Korea, with the Kia Ceed – backed by a seven-year warranty – taking the pivotal 'small family car' category and squeezing out favourites like the Ford Focus, VW Golf and Vauxhall Astra.

But the big praise was reserved for the Mondeo 2.0 TDCi Zetec hatchback, which scooped the family car and compact executive category – beating off the BMW 3-Series – and then took the overall crown.

The judges noted that just £8,600 buys a 2007 example with all the kit and space a family will ever need – saving more than £10,000 on a new Ford Mondeo.

What Car? editor-in-chief Steve Fowler said: "It's hard to find fault with the Ford Mondeo – especially at the price. It's a comfortable cruiser for covering motorway miles, yet it's still great fun to drive and makes an extremely capable family car. There's loads of cabin space, and it's solid and well put together."

Ford also took the 'used green car' award for the Focus 1.6 TDCi 90 Style five-door, but arch-rival Vauxhall then scored a hat-trick, with judges agreeing the Corsa was 'best used supermini', the Zafira 'best MPV', and the cavernous Vectra Estate 'best estate'.

Other award winners were: the Land Rover Discovery 2.7 TDV6 SE (4x4), Mercedes-Benz S320 CDI (executive and luxury), and the Porsche Boxster 2.7 (sports car).

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Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Chevrolet Range: Urban 42.8 (6.6)-21.5 (13.1), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2)-39.7 (7.1), Combined 55.4 (5.1)-30.3 (9.3), CO2 Emissions 119-234 g/km. Job No. 44656

C5 boost

CITROËN'S elegant C5 saloon and tourer/estate range has had an upgrade to keep it competitive in the tough family/executive sector.

Styled, launched and marketed originally as a 'Teutonic' rather than Gallic contestant, the French marque has not meddled with the sharp lines, but added new LED lighting within the headlamp clusters and darkened the rear lights.

But all engines now comply with strict Euro 5 emissions legislation, while the 155bhp 1.6i THP petrol engine and 240bhp 3.0HDi V6 performance diesel offer improved fuel efficiency and lower CO2 emissions and consequent tax benefits.

Standard specification on all flagship C5 Exclusive models now includes Citroën's new eTouch Emergency and Assistance System; this automatically or manually makes emergency calls in the event of an accident or breakdown.

Drivers can also monitor their vehicle's maintenance needs and even receive advice on improving fuel economy via the 'MyCITROËN' software facility.

Harvesting new look

SKODA dealer Sherlodge Garage has announced a major redevelopment at its Gillingham site over the next few weeks.

The works will close the onsite filling station at Hoath Lane, Wigmore, which then re-opens early next month with a refurbished and rebranded Mace convenience store, complete with onsite bakery and off licence.

The filling station will also be rebranded as Harvest Energy, the UK's largest independent road fuels supplier – it holds an eight per cent share of the national market.

The rebranded site now falls into step with Sherlodge's other Harvest Energy filling station at Lordswood Road, Chatham.

MAKEOVER: An artist's impression of the new-look filling station alongside the existing Sherlodge Skoda car dealership

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06 (56) VW CADDY C20 2.0 SDi, cloth upholstery, ply-lined, barn doors, side loading door, P/S, ABS, CD, 30k miles £6,495

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07 (07) VAUXHALL VIVARO 2700 CDTi, White, ABS, P/S, Barn doors, Side loading doors, Ply lined, CD player, 62k miles .....from £6,495

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07 (07) VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.9 CDTi 120bhp SPORTIVE, 6 spd, Blue, Roof rails, E/W, P/S, Air con, ABS, Front fogs, 49k miles.....£6,745

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08 (08) VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 CDTi CLUB with AIR CON, 6 spd, Silver, P/S, ABS, E/W, Colour coded body, Ply - lined, 45k miles.....£6,745

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07 (57) IVECO DAILY 35 S12, White, P/S, ABS, Dual passenger seat, Side loading doors, Barn doors, Ply lined, 55k miles.....£7,495

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08 (58) FORD TRANSIT CONNECT T210 L TDCi 110bhp, 3 person rear seat, Twin side load doors, P/S, ABS, CD, 31k miles £7,745

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09 (09) FORD FIESTA 1.6 TDCi SPORT, Metallic blue, Sports seats, ABS, E/M, E/W, Multi function steering wheel, 39k miles £7,745

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09 (09) VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 CDTi Sportive, 6 spd, air con, 16"alloys, P/S, ABS, colour coded body, E/M, E/W, CD, 11k miles.....£7,995

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08 (08) FORD TRANSIT 260 LX 110bhp, Tonic Blue, Ply lined, Barn doors, Twin side load doors, Dual passenger seat, Trip comp, ABS, E/M, E/W, CD, 40k miles...£8,995

06 (56) FORD TRANSIT 350 115 bhp double Cab Tipper, P/S, ABS, 6 seater, 3 person rear seat, 35k miles £9,495

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07 (07) FORD RANGER THUNDER, Aluminium Silver, AIR CON, Full leather, P/S, ABS, Side Steps, E/M, E/slide doors, CD /Radio, 37k miles..£11,495

06 (56) FORD TRANSIT 17 SEAT MINI BUS 140bhp, Cloth upholstery, Barn doors, Dual passenger seat, E/W, CD, 31k miles....£12,495

08 (08) RENAULT TRAFIC LL 29 DCi 115 3+3 CREW VAN, 6 spd, Silver, 6 seater, Air con, ABS, E/M, E/W, 42k miles £12,495

08 (08) MITSUBISHI L200 WARRIOR, Metallic silver, ABS, P/S, E/W, E/M, Side steps,CD Player, 33k miles.....£12,745

07 (57) MITSUBISHI L200 ELEGANCE AUTO, Black, Full leather, Sat Nav, Privacy glass, Front fogs, Electric seats, Side steps. 20k miles.....£12,995

07 (57) NISSAN NAVARA AVENTURA TURBO DIESEL, 6 speed, Black metallic, Full leather, E/ heated seats, E/roof, E/M, E/W, P/S, Multi disc CD, 33k miles.....£13,995

08 (58) FORD TRANSIT 350 LWB LUTON 140 bhp, 6 spd, white, Cloth, P/S, ABS, CD /Radio, 23k miles..... .....£15,000

08 (08) NISSAN NAVARA LONG WAY DOWN AUTO with SAT NAV, Storm grey, Full leather, Privacy glass, E/heat seats, P/S, Trip Computer, Roof rails, Side steps, 18k miles.....£16,000

10 (59) NISSAN NAVARA 2.5 TEKNA with SAT NAV, Black, Full leather, Roof rails, E/ heat seats, Side steps, Multi disc CD, Alloys, plus more, 8k miles.....£17,995

58 (08) MERCEDES VITO 120 CDi SPORT X BRABUS DUALINER, Black, Full leather, Air con, Sat nav, Trip comp, Privacy glass, Alloys....many features,11k miles.....£25,995

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Chef's ramblings start to

DrivingReview

by STEVELOADER

CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Volvo S60

FOR a brand with obsessive attention to safety, Volvo used to be remarkably cavalier about customer appeal.

The latter still gets people over the threshold faster, yet Volvo used to toss styling and driver feedback into the mix in the same haphazard manner as the Swedish chef out of The Muppets and with little more in the way of lucid explanation.

But the mercurial cook has started to make sense; we had a taster from the well-sorted chassis that is standard on the revamped S80 flagship and now we have the main course – the all-new S60 (from £23,295).

It was hyped as the Volvo to truly challenge the ubiquitous BMW 3-Series in the junior executive car race.

It was never going to be quite like that though when the Swedish brand has retained the front-driven layout of the previous car, while the German star stands doggedly by the rear-wheel drive that has made its fortune with British fans.

But what this second generation S60 does offer are excellent reasons to weigh its virtues against those of the BMW when company car user choosers – likely to account for most sales – start their next bout of head-scratching.

They will see a car that appears more compact than the previous generation S60; the old car actually looked pretty classy, but a spell behind the wheel showed that it flattered to deceive.

No such accusation can be levelled at its successor, which follows the executive class vogue for four-door coupé styling and then truly delivers in the handling department.

I was impressed by the car's apparent contradiction; the ride feels pliant and copes well with rural roads still scarred by last winter.

And yet the S60 feels remarkably taught on the bends, while the steering is well-weighted and delivers excellent feedback.

Some will still prefer the BMW's balance and tauter ride, but they risk being selfish; the Volvo is a driver's car too – albeit one of different character to the German – but it is also a nicer car for passengers.

And this applies in terms of the ride and the cabin ambiance, which is first class and pleasing to the eye and touch – I particularly liked

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SX4 model shown is the 1.6 SZ4 M/T available at £12,395.00 on the road (metallic paint available at £375.00). Swift model shown is the 1.2 SZ4 5 door M/T available at £12,245 on the road (metallic paint available at £375.00). Splash model shown is the 1.2 GLS available at £10,315 on the road (metallic paint available at £375.00).

SX4 range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): Urban from 30.7 (9.2) to 35.8 (7.9), extra urban from 47.9 (5.9) to 54.3 (5.2), combined from 39.2 (7.2) to 45.6 (6.2). Official CO_2 emissions from 143g/km to 165g/km. Swift range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): Urban from 41.5 (6.8) to 46.3 (6.1), extra urban from 57.6 (4.9) to 64.2 (4.4), combined from 50.4 (5.6) to 56.5 (5.0). Official CO_2 emissions from 116g/km to 129g/km. Splash range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): Urban from 36.2 (7.8) to 51.4 (5.5), extra urban from 57.6 (4.9) to 70.6 (4.0), combined from 47.9 (5.9) to 62.8 (4.5). Official CO_2 emissions from 119g/km to 142g/km.

0% APR typical finance over 3 years on selected SX4, Swift and Splash models is subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 01.10.2010 and 31.12.2010 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Credit available to persons aged 18 years or over, subject to status. Indemnities may be required. For full details contact your local Suzuki Dealers. Suzuki Finance reserves the right to withdraw or amend this offer without prior notice. The offer is available to customers within the UK (excludes Channel Islands and Isle of Man). Suzuki Finance, part of Black Horse Group, St William House, Tresillian Terrace, Cardiff CF10 5BH. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. *ESP® is a registered trademark of Daimler AG.[77] The Splash 1.0 GLS and 1.3 DDis models fall into Government Excise Band C at £30 per year from year 2 onwards. All prices and specifications are correct at time of going to press.

make some sense

the real alloy finishing and quality of the plastics used. There is also a generous boot.

Refinement is generally good at all speeds and particularly on motorways, though Volvo's well-tested five-cylinder diesel sounded raucous under pressure in our high-spec SE Lux review car.

Nevertheless, the popular D5 is well-matched to the new S60 with the 202bhp output delivering loads of low-down power for both press-on and lazy motoring situations and helped by a light and well-spaced six-speed gearbox allowing an average mpg of well over 50.

Even the all-new five-cylinder 163bhp 2.0-litre D3 engine has to work hard to better that.

There is also a fast all-wheel drive 304bhp 3.0-litre petrol T6 (from £35,695) – continuing a latter-day Volvo tradition of using 'T' to denote the performance flagship – this will hit 62mph in just 6.5 seconds.

The new S60 may be specified with a ground-breaking Pedestrian Detection package, which can stop a collision with a pedestrian at up to 21mph and dramatically reduce speed above that, with potentially life-saving consequences, but will people really cough up an extra £1,350 for such a selfless feature?

It also gives you a shock when it cuts in the first time, especially when you are already responding to the hazard.

Standard S60 kit is generous though and includes electronic climate and cruise controls, five-inch colour screen for the 'infotainment' system, steering wheel remote audio controls, alloys and leather steering wheel and gear stick.

DrivingPortfolio

VOLVO S60 D5 SE LUX £29,750

Driving appeal (OUT OF FIVE)	★★★★
Image	★★★★
Space	★★★★
Value	★★★★
Running costs	★★★
Reliability	★★★★
How green?	★★★
Road tax	£110/year
Best rival	Audi A4

TheVerdict

DON'T LIKE: ...actually, there is nothing that irritates

NOT SURE: some user choosers will avoid knee-jerk reaction and give S60 consideration it deserves

REALLY LIKE: how the Swedish marque has finally delivered true compact executive class contestant

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2003 53 Reg SAAB 9-3 2.0T Aero, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 121,170 miles, Metallic Black. Sat Nav, Bluetooth Handsfree Leather seat trim, Radio/CD, Cruise control, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Full Electric Pack, Remote central locking, Trip computer, Alarm, Headlight washers, Body coloured bumpers, Rear armrest, PAS, Air conditioning, Anti theft system, Climate Control, Full Service History, Sports seats, Tinted glass. ..... **NOW £4,195**

2001 Y Reg SAAB 9-5 2.0T SE, 102,941 miles, 4 Doors, Automatic, Saloon, Petrol. Metallic Grey, 4 Owners. Heated door mirrors, ABS, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Cruise control, Folding rear seats, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Side airbags, Leather upholstery, Front electric windows, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, Remote central locking, Drivers airbag, Trip computer, Leather seat trim, Air conditioning, Radio/Cassette, Traction control, Body coloured bumpers, PAS, Climate Control, Service indicator, Electric mirrors, Remote locking., ... **NOW £2,795**

2000 W Reg SAAB 9-3 2.0T, 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 70,471 miles, Metallic RED, 2 Owners. Central locking, Folding rear seats, Trip computer, Passenger airbag, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Cloth upholstery, Part Service History, Child locks, CD, Immobiliser, Side airbags, Front electric windows, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, ABS, Headlight washers, Body coloured bumpers, PAS, Radio/Cassette, Air conditioning, Service indicator. **£2,495**

1998 R Reg SAAB 9-5 2.0T, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 116,963 miles, Metallic Red, 2 Owners. , Radio/CD, Service indicator, Child locks, ABS, Air conditioning, Alloy wheels, Anti theft system, Central locking, Child seats, Colour coding - Body, Computer, Cruise control, Driver airbag, Full Electric Pack, Heated seats, Leather seats, Metallic paintwork, Multi function steering wheel, Navigation system, Park distance control, Passenger airbag, Power assisted steering, Radio, Rear armrest, Remote locking, Side airbags, Sideskirts, Spoiler, Sunroof, Telephone, Tinted glass, Traction control. ... **£1,695**

R Reg SAAB 9-3 2.0i, 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 1998, 66,678 miles, Black, 1 Owner. Rear wiper, Trip computer, Cloth upholstery, Immobiliser, Part Service History, Remote locking, Service indicator, Electric door mirrors, ABS, Adjustable seats, Adjustable steering column/wheel, Air conditioning, Alloy wheels, Anti theft system, CD, Central locking, Electric mirrors, Electric windows, Foglights, Head restraints, Headlight washers, Heated seats, Metallic paintwork, Passenger airbag, Power assisted steering, Rear armrest, Side airbags, Steel wheels, Sunroof, Tinted glass, Wheel trims... **NOW £1,695**

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147, 1.9 JTD 16v MULTIJET LUSSO, 2005, abs air con alloy wheels cd diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover remote central locking, grey, 51447 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

147, 1.9 JTD 16v MULTIJET LUSSO, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover remote central locking, grey, 51447 miles, £5000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

147, 1.9 JTD 16v MULTIJET LUSSO, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, alfa red, 70000 miles, £10000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

159, 2.4 JTDM LUSSO, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 28347 miles, £12000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

BRERA, 2.4 JTDM SV, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player cruise control diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, silver, 28347 miles, £13000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BRERA, 2.4 JTDM SV, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player cruise control diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, silver, 28347 miles, £13000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

CAPTIVA, VCDi LT FWD, 2008, abs brakes alarm fitted alloys drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player remote central locking isofix child seat points, grey, 21364 miles, £12000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

KALOS, 1.2 S, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking isofix child seat points, silver, 27000 miles, £3000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

KALOS, 1.2 S, 2007, abs brakes air con cd electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking isofix child seat points, silver, 27000 miles, £3000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

LACETTI, 1.6 SX, 2007, abs brakes air con alloys cd player central locking electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking isofix child seat points, silver, 28000 miles, £4500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

LACETTI, SX, 2009, black metallic, 9000 miles, £5500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MATIZ, SE, 2008, abs brakes air con cd central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, blue, 39215 miles, £4000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

TACUMA, 1.6 SX, 2006, abs brakes cd electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking, blue, 30509 miles, £3000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FIAT

500, 16v, 2008, cd player drivers airbag, red, 261 miles, £14000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, Pop, 2010, abs brakes cd player electric windows immobiliser mp3 player trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, blue, 6 miles, £9200, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BRAVO, 1.4, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights half leather trim immobiliser, black, 55 miles, £16000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BRAVO, 1.4, 2008, black, 55 miles, £10000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CROMA, 1.9 MULTIJET ELEGANZA, 2006, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player climate control diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering remote central locking, grey, 48073 miles, £5000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CROMA, 1.9 MULTIJET ELEGANZA, 2006, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player climate control diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering remote central locking, grey, 48073 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CROMA, 1.9 MULTIJET ELEGANZA, 2006, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player climate control diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering remote central locking, grey, 48073 miles, £5000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

DOBLO, Active, 2009, abs brakes alarm fitted bluetooth car kit cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, silver metallic, 15000 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FIORINO, Multijet SX, 2010, blue, 200 miles, £7880, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FIORINO, Multijet SX, 2010, blue, 200 miles, £7880, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2008, red, 55 miles, £14480, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2008, drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering remote central locking, crossover black, 18200 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

IDEA, 1.4, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking climate control electric windows immobiliser, blue, 50 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MULTIPLA, Eleganza, 2010, abs brakes alarm fitted allos cd player climate control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid sliding rear seats split folding rear seats trip computer curtain airbags front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking isofix child seat points adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers lumbar support rear headrests 3x3 point rear seat belts heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat, various, 12 miles, £16000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

PANDA 4X4, Cross, 2010, 4x4 abs brakes air con alloys diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering trip computer remote central locking adjustable steering column, black, 6 miles, £12100, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

PUNTO, 1.2 DYNAMIC, 2004, abs brakes cd player central locking electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering tonneau cover twin airbags front passenger air bag deactivation switch, lagoon blue, 48500 miles, £3000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

QUBO, Multijet Trekking, 2010, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels bluetooth car kit diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser mp3 player multiple airbags power steering tinted glass traction control trip computer front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking twin sliding doors roof bars, various, 8 miles, £11550, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

SCUDO, 1.6 COMFORT 90 L1, 2010, abs brakes cd player diesel immobiliser power steering side load door remote central locking, blue, 5000 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

HONDA

ACCORD, VTEC Executive automatic Sat Nav + Leather, wg04nfe, full leather, climate control, abs, power steering, parking sensor, multi-function steering wheel, electric mirrors, electric windows, satellite navigation, remote central locking, colour coded body, cd player, rear wash/wipe, metallic paintwork, front fog lamps, 15'' alloys, blue, 89000 miles, £5449, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

CIVIC, 1.4 SE, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers, black, 9200 miles, £12000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CIVIC, VTEC Auto, 2002, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering, green, 75723 miles, £2200, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CR-V, 2.2 TD ES, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls adjustable steering column 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat, blue, 19697 miles, £17000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FR-V, 2.2 i-CTDi SE 5dr, 37055163, abs, air bag, immobiliser, alarm, central locking, remote central locking, air con, climate control, stereo, electric windows, brake assist, automatic electric windows, radio, head restraints, steering wheel audio controls, isofix, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, retractable headrests, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, multi-function steering wheel, power steering, quick-clear screen, side air bags, twin air bags, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric front windows, electric mirrors, cd player, parker's is the recognised industry guide for used vehicle pricing in the uk. the saving shown is against parker's franchise retail price for a nearest mileage and specification match. sparkle grey met, 62056 miles, £9000, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

HR-V, 2wd 3dr, 8243079, air conditioning, central locking, cloth upholstery, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, power steering, abs, twin air bags, colour coded body, rear wash/wipe, electric front windows, electric mirrors, radio, cd player, alloy wheels, blue, 53000 miles, £2695, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

INSIGHT, ES, 2010, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels automatic transmission central locking climate control electric windows metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags single cd player remote central locking, cerulean blue, 5000 miles, £16000, Tunbridge Wells, 08448 759297 (TRADE)

JAZZ, 1.4 SE, 2005, abs brakes air con alloys cd central locking drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors power steering single cd player tonneau cover remote central locking remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers rear headrests 3x3 point rear seat belts heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat space saver spare wheel, sirius blue, 31000 miles, £5300, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

S2000, GT, 2005, abs brakes alarm fitted alloys cd central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights heated seats immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering sports seats tinted glass trip computer twin airbags remote central locking remote audio controls body coloured bumpers heated door mirrors, nurberg blue, 26179 miles, £12000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

OUR Big Interview could inspire any Kent company facing tough times, because it charts how the finance chief at the once ailing Hadlow College helped pull it back from the brink.

Millions in debt, the college was labelled 'failing' by education chiefs and yet Mark Lumsdon-Taylor saw a spark of life – no wonder he's up for another top accountancy award.

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Thanks – but we do need those growth plans now

By **STEVE LOADER**
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

POSITIVE economic statistics on the back of the austere yet palatable agenda set by the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR), have given confidence to Kent business leaders.

Figures up to the end of September show two consecutive quarters of UK growth above what had been forecast, meaning that even if the UK economy now marks time to the end of 2010, it will still outpace forecasts (see Comment inside).

And High Street sales – a barometer of consumer confidence – have been higher for October than a year ago.

But while this draws some of the sting of the CSR cuts, county businesses now want to hear how the Government will stimulate further growth.

Regional Institute of Directors' (IoD) chairman Chris Dodson said "clear and concise practical proposals" were needed "to make it easier for firms to employ people, not make it harder".

The IoD's regional director Rodger Broad also called on the Government to recognise the economic power and influence of the South East including Kent.

ON THE UP: Shoppers have boosted economy

He said: "It is imperative the country plays to its strengths and, economically, that is the South East.

"While we are not calling on the Government to stop supporting businesses in the other regions, the South East is better placed to benefit quicker from the upturn. Positive discrimination in favour of other regions will hold back recovery."

Highlighting that only London and the South East are net contributors to the Government's tax coffers, Mr Broad added: "Government spending cuts are only half of the solution, the other half is how to help businesses grow and create jobs which in turn will increase the tax take and reduce welfare expenditure."

And growth also headed Thames Gateway Chamber of Commerce's post-CSR agenda; director Paul Price said the review had underlined the UK was a safe investment, but "we now wait to see a strategy for growth". However, he was disappointed to see cuts in training.

"If the private sector is to create the jobs to drive this recovery it is essential that government can deliver the basic skills employers need. We are also disappointed the budget for export promotion has taken such a substantial hit when politicians say they want a rebalanced UK economy. British companies will be left in a weaker position compared to competitors from other trading nations," he addded.

On the other hand, the IoD remains unconcerned by fears in some quarters that making deep cuts to bring down the debt faster risked pitching the country into a a double-dip recession as confidence ebbed away.

Its own number-crunching turned up evidence from the 90s downturn that a tighter fiscal policy could go hand in hand with economic recovery.

Meanwhile, Peter Skinner – Labour's MEP for the South East – said he recognised the need for cuts, but called the CSR "a huge gamble with growth and jobs in Kent".

Panto star's answer waited in the wings

Picture: PAUL JERREAT

PANTO star John Thomson's commute from Manchester to Kent was looking like a torture devised by the dastardly Sheriff of Nottingham, the character he plays in Robin Hood at Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre from December 4.

John – famous for appearances in Cold Feet and Coronation Street – was facing a long train journey from his Manchester home or flying into London Stansted and flogging around the M25.

Either way, it was a five-hour trip each way to his accommodation near Canterbury during the panto run and far too much extra time away from his wife and two young daughters – until he investigated Flybe's new 50-minute daily service between Manchester and Manston Airport in Thanet.

"It's an absolute godsend," he said after stepping off his plane en route to panto rehearsals.

"It makes perfect sense."

• For more on John and his travels, see Julie Maddocks' exclusive TV interview on www.businessforkent.co.uk.

Upgrade in airport status opening up 'new opportunities'

By **STEVE LOADER**

LYDD Airport development plans are closer to take-off after an upgrade to the site's operating status.

The airport is currently awaiting news of a public inquiry into a runway extension and new passenger facilities, but the new Category Six rating is expected to boost its case – airports are rated globally on a scale of 1-10, with 17 of the world's biggest being rated 10.

The enhanced level of the Romney Marsh facility allows it to handle a larger class of commercial aircraft, such as the Bombardier Dash 8 Q400 and other regional airliners carrying up to 100 passengers.

It can also accommodate larger and faster transatlantic-capable corporate jets such as the Gulfstream G550.

Lydd Airport spokesman Jo Oliver said: "Having met strict criteria set down by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), we now have the capability to deal with a much wider range and size of aircraft.

"This is fantastic news and will enable us to attract more business.

"In fact, it's already opening up new opportunities for the airport."

The airport satisfied rigorous CAA requirements to achieve its new category, culminating in its annual emergency exercise and including 'Exercise Dash' to test airport operations units' ability to work alongside external emergency services during a major incident.

Lydd's senior airport fire officer, Paul Fisher, said: "The 'emergency' scenario involved a Bombardier DHC-8-400 aircraft carrying 74 passengers and four crew, which suffered a catastrophic engine failure just before take-off.

"Airport staff, members of Friends of Lydd Airport Group and local lifeguards played the role of the passengers who were evacuated to a special 'survivor reception' area."

BUSINESS WEEK

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Comment

THE government might say there is nothing lucky about news the UK economy has grown faster than expected.

But David Cameron may reflect on former US President Eisenhower's quote "I would rather have a lucky general than a smart general…" just one week after 'finance general' George Osborne launched the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) offensive.

For, just as General Osborne told us to prepare for the big push, the war also seems to be turning in our favour.

Of course, nobody is saying the chancellor is not smart and can't claim some credit for official stats showing 0.8 per cent growth from July-September.

However, 1.2 per cent growth the previous quarter (April-June) suggests the upward trend was kick-started simply by confidence from the change of government in May, before any coalition policies could bite, although the positive blip may have been helped by pent-up forces carried over from a weather-hit first quarter – many construction projects were put on hold, for instance.

Nevertheless, whether growth trends show Osborne is lucky or shrewd, his CSR plans have gained further confirmation of our triple-A credit rating or that the UK is "good for the cash" – we don't want to be paying any higher interest on our colossal debt.

It was also good to learn that even if the economy marks time to the end of 2010, it will have grown 1.7 per cent this year – 0.1 ahead of forecast.

I bet on further growth this quarter though, especially after an interesting chat with Kevin Khanna, dealer principal at Thames Motor Group in Tonbridge.

With his business spread across three brands, he reckons turnover has been better than most in a depressed car market, but said last week's CSR turned on a tap.

"From Thursday through to Sunday, the place was busy like it hadn't been for a long time; there was a real feeling of confidence and a buzz," Mr Khanna said.

Right now, Kent businesses won't mind if the chancellor is smart or lucky.

BUSINESS EDITOR STEVE LOADER

Let's have some detail then

By **JO JAMES**
Chief Executive – Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce

AFTER the Comprehensive Spending Review, it would be nice if the Government could outline a clear growth strategy.

From a Kent perspective, this ought to focus on small businesses – comprising 85 per cent of firms here.

And while the Government wants an export drive, this priority has not come through in the review, which ordered a 25 per cent cut in the UK Trade and Investment programmes offering direct on-the-ground support for exporters – we want further work done to increase export potential and insurance against Kent companies being disadvantaged against rivals elsewhere in the UK.

The CSR's increased spend for adult apprenticeships is a positive move, but comes at the expense of other programmes like Train to Gain.

If the Government wants the private sector to absorb much of the 490,000 jobs it will shed from the public sector, it must invest in training those redundant workers so that they can switch sectors more easily and without burdening hard-pressed private firms; red tape must be slashed too to boost growth and recruitment.

Access to finance has been a major problem as well for small businesses over the past two years so it was pleasing to hear of the continuation of the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme over the spending review period, though not clear what the funding will be.

The announcement of cash for an equity scheme for small businesses with growth potential is also positive, though announcing such schemes is one thing; making them accessible to business is another.

Financial institutions must be more responsive to business needs, freeing up funding from such schemes and making them less bureaucratic.

The review was very much as we all expected though; cuts had to be made, as the country could not continue on a downward slide. This was never going to be an easy task, balancing cuts with increased growth in the private sector.

With welfare reform, consumers will have less spending power and this will inevitably impact on business, particularly small business.

And it makes it imperative now that, whatever Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is put in place to cover Kent, our business sector – mostly small but very flexible firms – gets a decent share of funding to promote growth and economic prosperity.

David Cameron's Big Society vision though is that more benefits come from less public spending and from greater involvement by all.

So there is an expectation that the business sector must work it out for itself – partnership working will be key.

Trade union's rally escalates row over port

PROTESTS at plans to privatise the port of Dover have gathered pace following a trade union rally there.

The chief executive of P&O Ferries – one of the port's major users – has also sent a further complaint to the Government at what it sees as "provocative" and "abusive" management by the port's manager, Dover Harbour Board (DHB).

The Unite union organised the rally as part of an international week of action co-ordinated by the International Transport Federation (ITF); the action also called for standardised terms and conditions for all dock and transport logistics workers.

Unite national officer Ron Webb said: "People want to make it absolutely clear the privatisation of Dover docks would be a disaster. The UK is an island nation. We need a first-class sea port like Dover to be in public hands.

"There is too much at stake to leave the running of this vital link to Europe in the hands of those who will milk this national treasure for profits."

Unite's regional organiser Sharon Wentworth added: "This protest is to send the message that we won't tolerate this type of attack on workers' terms and conditions. If privatisation happens, there will be a race to the bottom, cutting costs for the benefit of the shareholders and not for those people in the jobs."

Tariffs

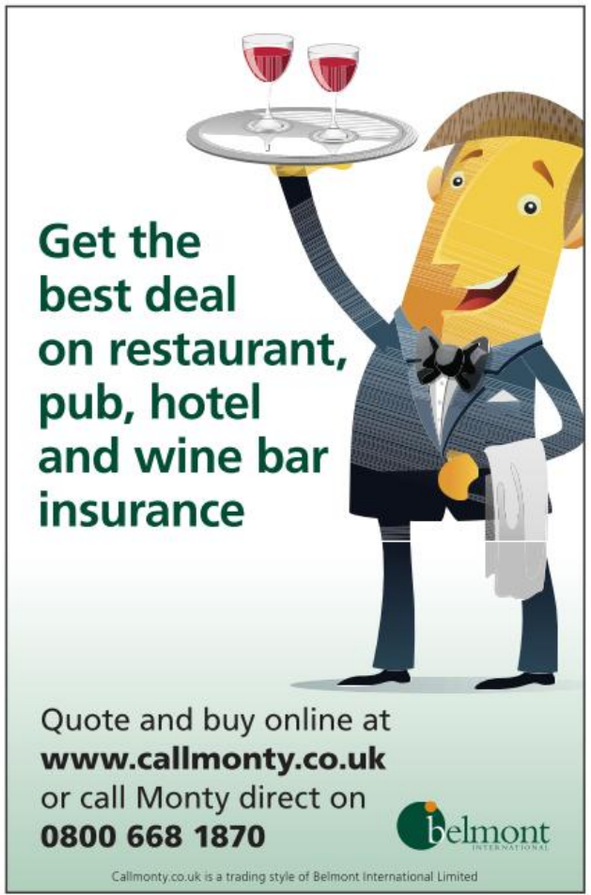
A Port of Dover official said: "Other first-class UK sea ports are not in public hands – in fact most major ports in the UK are privately owned, operated and very successful.

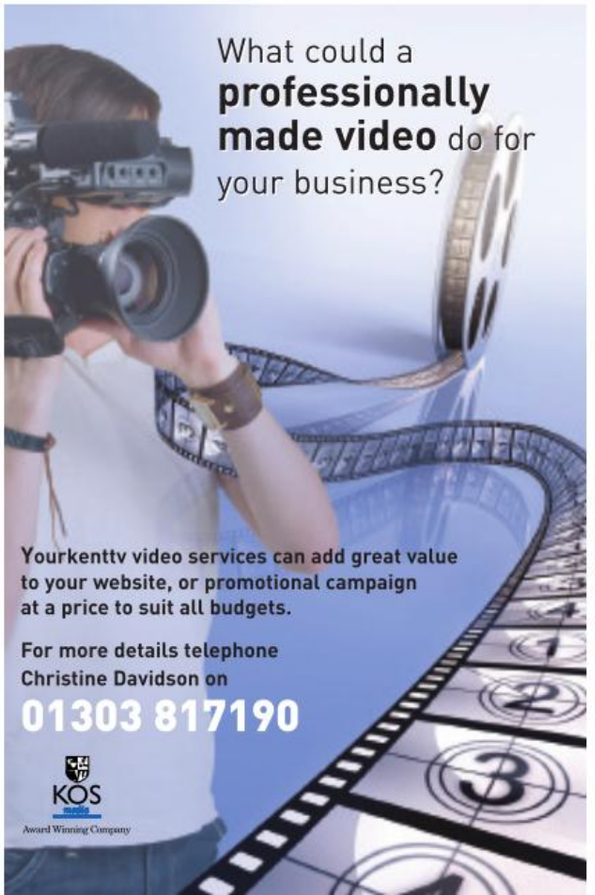
"Privatisation is required in order that there can be the necessary investment in the Port of Dover to grow the business, create jobs, new opportunities and value that can only be achieved in the private sector."

But port managers have also upset three of their biggest customers SeaFrance, Norfolkline – soon to be re-branded DFDS – and P&O Ferries, who have complained of high-handed negotiating tactics.

P&O chief executive Helen Deeble has now written to junior transport minister Norman Baker to complain about DHB's steep increase in port tariffs 2011, at a sensitive time for the UK economy, and one imposed while a dispute continues over the current year's charges.

Ms Deeble told Mr Baker: "This action seems to us to be provocative and unjustified and I would ask you to use your influence to ask DHB to reconsider its position."





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BUSINESSES have won new rights to tackle late payers – thanks to an EU 30-day payment deadline ruling.

Euro MP for the South East Peter Skinner backed the new measures and said: "These new rights mean that local businesses can no longer be fobbed off with claims that 'the cheque's in the post'.

"Late payment is a major issue for many small businesses, which rely on bills being paid promptly to cover their costs, including staff wages."

He said the Government must now introduce rules so that companies can demand payment in 30 days – failure entitles them to impose penalty charges.

Mr Skinner added: "Many businessmen and women have spoken to me about cash-flow problems because their clients pay late. They report the worst offenders are big companies which often sit on bills for months without paying them."

INFOTECH Solutions UK of Medway City Estate has received a coveted Gold Investors in People (IiP) Award at a London ceremony. The awards scheme aims to promote good management with an emphasis on best practice people management and development.

Infotech is an IT company with 14 staff and managing director Jason Foord said he was delighted with the award.

"We have found that staff really buy into the philosophy behind the IiP standard and are happier at work knowing that we fulfil all the requirements at the highest level. Happy staff are productive staff, so there are benefits on all levels of the business," he said.

KIER South East Construction was first past the post to land a major industry award for its £21million Marriott Hotel and Country Club project at Lingfield Park.

Kier, which has a regional office at Aylesford, near Maidstone, scooped the hotel category at the prestigious International Design and Architecture Awards after judges agreed the 116-bed Surrey racecourse development looked "like it belongs to the site; it has been designed to provide a maximum panorama of the course and surrounding countryside and uninterrupted views over the racecourse".

Kier Southern construction director Peter Searle collected the award and said: "It is really good when a project gains such recognition – all the teams involved with the project should be very proud of their input."

CREATIVE agency The Wow Factory, based at Charing, near Ashford, has added a team specialising in new media: websites, search engine marketing and social media strategies.

The new line-up – Adam Parsonage, Heidi Robus, Jon Lane and Ricky Ellmore – has already pitched successfully for business from The London Tombs, Specialist Golf, The Secret Gardens of Sandwich, Britelite and Regal Estates.

SPECIALIST private medical insurance consultancy Citrus Healthcare has been launched in Hildenborough, with the aim of filling a gap in the market.

Founder Richard Bamford has nearly 20 years' healthcare insurance experience and his new venture will offer advice to both companies and individuals.

Fields will include medical insurance, sickness absence management, occupational health, employee assistance programmes, corporate health screening and company dental, travel and cash plans.

Citrus Healthcare is part of the Citrus brand, launched in 2000 by David Braithwaite, a television and radio guru on personal finance. He is the resident financial expert on BBC Radio Kent with a regular slot every Saturday morning.

Brave business heroine loses her battle for life

By **STEVE LOADER**
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

ENTREPRENEUR Helen Barrett was always determined to run her own business and won a semi-final place in the 2010 Barclays Trading Places Awards.

But the day after hearing of her advance in a contest recognising those who have beaten the odds in business, the 31-year-old lost her lifelong battle against cystic fibrosis.

Helen, from Beckenham, had tried to live as normal a life as possible and, with long-term partner Andy Fowler, 29, was aware of the benefits of a regular fitness regime for health and well-being.

It led to the idea behind Define Fitness while Andy was working for a large health club in 2004.

Realising he was earning only a fraction of what his clients were paying, Andy and Helen decided to create a fitness studio that would enable trainers to develop their own client businesses, and reap the rewards for themselves.

In April, 2006, Define Fitness opened its doors, but there were still more challenges for the couple; Andy was then diagnosed with an aggressive form of testicular cancer and had to endure surgery and four months of intense chemotherapy. At the same time, Helen's own health deteriorated and she was admitted to hospital for six weeks.

They also faced a deteriorating bank account as well, but then Andy's health insurance policy paid out and they were able to clear their debts and get Define Fitness back on track, only for Helen to lose her final battle.

Trading Places' judges' chairman Steve Cooper was saddened by the loss of one of the contest's brightest prospects but hoped Helen's story "will inspire other budding entrepreneurs in Kent, who face similar difficulties, to come forward and turn their own business dreams into reality".

Barclays will present the overall winner with a cheque for £10,000, and the runner-up with £5,000 for their business, at a prestigious black-tie gala dinner at The Savoy in London on November 30.

HAPPIER DAYS: Helen got the idea for Define Fitness from her long-term partner Andy

Bankers do battle in charity's Store Wars

FUNDRAISERS at Barnardo's in Rochester were told to put their feet up for a day after a group of NatWest bank managers ditched their computers and pens for a day's work in the charity shop.

And the newcomers managed a 532 per cent increase in the store's average daily takings by cashing up £1,170.58.

They had responded to a challenge to run the shop in aid of abused, vulnerable, forgotten and neglected children, while also joining an 'Apprentice'-style competition against colleagues known as Store Wars.

As the Rochester team took over, NatWest colleagues did the same in several other Barnado's shops across the South East.

All were vying to make the most for the cause, but the Kent team trounced them all.

Their spokesman David Farley said: "This event was a great way for us to give something back to the community while having some fun at the same time."

And he added that, unlike Amstrad boss Alan Sugar's BBC show The Apprentice, no-one got fired for failing to make the most money.

Pictured (left to right) sorting the clothes rail at Barnado's in Rochester is NatWest's Stuart Gibson, Steve Leonard and Terry Winfield.

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Kent Business School

Big ambitions of little online dresses venture

AMBITIOUS young designer-cum-entrepreneur Stacey Blair has put her university studies on hold and launched what she sees as a niche in online fashion.

The 22-year-old has created The Little Dress Company (TLDC), based on her passion and talent for designing and making dresses for a young clientele… and their mums' chequebooks.

Born in Dover and now living near Deal, Stacey took a degree in fine art and design at the University for Creative Arts at Canterbury and was then persuaded to further her academic studies through architecture.

But her spare time dress-making took over and she decided to let her embryonic business instinct take over.

She had an online shop designed for impact, but on a shoestring budget; selling online was a no-brainer, allowing her to sell to a niche market nationwide or even further afield while being free to spend her days designing and making her dresses.

Stacey said: "The web designers have followed their brief perfectly and built a site that looks and feels like me and my little dress business. It's fabulous."

The new site has also launched with Stacey's all-new winter collection, featuring what she sees as her trademarks: hand-made unique designs allied with fabrics and materials sourced from all over the world – it's unlikely any of the site's little customers are going to bump into one of their mates wearing the same party frock.

DARN GOOD: Stacey Blair who created TLDC

Top honours

ALLEGED public sector waste has been a favourite whipping boy as the UK counts the costs of the profligate Noughties and the ensuing recession.

But while the Government went on an unprecedented spending spree and consumers maxed up the credit cards, one public sector organisation was showing how things should have been done.

Not that Hadlow College – Kent's sole surviving and century-old agricultural college – had much choice.

An inspection by education watchdogs at Ofsted in late 2003 produced the damning verdict that the college was 'failing' – it was turning over £4.5 million a year but losing £500,000, and student numbers were falling.

In a bid to stay afloat core assets had been sold, without any salvage plan being drawn up as costs and overheads soared.

The looming disaster was obvious to Mark Lumsdon-Taylor, then an audit manager at City-based accountants MacIntyre Hudson (MH); Hadlow was part of his client portfolio of colleges and public sector bodies.

He recalled: "When we asked for the accounts in 2002, they said 'but isn't that your job?' So we had to call in extra hands to build the accounts from scratch – the finance systems were in dire need of improvement."

Shortly afterwards the college's problems were made public, the then-principal left and there was a management shake-up, including the key appointment of acting principal and now permanent head Paul Hannan.

The new management team – popularly known as the Drama Department since most had the caveat 'acting' in front of their job title – had already recognised Mark's external efforts to rebuild college finances and confidence and asked him to join the cast, as acting finance, operations and IT chief in February, 2003.

It was a tough decision; then 27, he had risen swiftly at MH and was tipped to join the partnership ranks with a strong City career beckoning.

But Mark recalled: "Hadlow was a new and fresh challenge completely outside of the practice work I had been doing and I believed the college was worth saving and could be saved, and I saw that others on the new team thought the same.

KOS media BUSINESS WEEK

THE BIG INTERVIEW

HADLOW College director of finance and resources Mark Lumsdon-Taylor has been nominated once more for a prestigious Accountancy Age Award.

He scooped the Public Services and Voluntary Sector honours in 2007 for masterminding the financial rescue of the college near Tonbridge after it was written off by education chiefs.

Earlier this year those same assessors gave the revitalised college top marks and Mark is one of four finalists in the same category at the 2010 AA awards held on November 17; can the 35-year-old pull off an unprecedented second win?

Business editor **STEVE LOADER** asked him why 'life down on the farm' holds such appeal rather than the City career so many tipped him for…

"By this stage, Wye (agricultural college) was under review (later to close) and we wanted to fight for Hadlow to enable Kent to retain a land-based college as part of that great Garden of England heritage."

Rather than continue the retrenchment that had already seen the college lose key assets and flexibility, Mark opted for modest investment and – what had been lacking before – a vice-like grip on cashflow.

At this point in the interview he quoted a mantra of the finance man: "Turnover is vanity, profit is sanity and cashflow is reality."

And that reality could be graphic too, he admitted, but a new business-like structure and his own ferocious work ethic – though he would be the last to mention the latter – paid dividends through convincing Barclays that

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again for Hadlow's rescuer?

IT'S GROWING STRONGER: Hadlow College has just opened a state-of-the-art 'rural regeneration centre' (above)

the once shaky college was 'good' for an initial £1.5 million loan to deliver valuable breathing space.

A 2005 Ofsted report also removed the college's grade four 'inadequate' and applied a grade two 'good', allowing Hadlow to sidestep proposals to merge it with another college;

And there was a new practicality and profitability about how the college ran formerly loss-leading agricultural facilities necessary to its role as an educational facility.

Far from selling these to save money, as before his arrival, Mark saw them as assets that could deliver economies of scale from further investment, so the college now runs four farms instead of the one it had when he arrived.

In addition, it operates three farm shops, the Broadview complex – incorporating a garden centre, ornamental gardens built by students, and tearooms which use homegrown produce – and a commercial lake and fish farm.

Hadlow also produces own brand quality produce and is the mainspring of regional milk marketing co-operative South East Milk.

"Everything the college does commercially must demonstrate high standards in business and finance, to be used as models for teaching and learning, otherwise they do not contribute to the experience of students," said Mark.

MARK'S CV

- 1997 – Left Keele University with a degree in law and economics and joined City accountancy firm MacIntyre Hudson, where he rose quickly to become an audit manager.
- 2003 – Joined Hadlow College as head of finance, operations and IT and later promoted to director of finance and resources.

MARK'S TOP TIPS

- NEVER RELAX YOUR GUARD – "Whatever the economic environment outside, just remember: turnover is vanity, profit is sanity and cashflow is reality."
- **NOWHERE IS EXEMPT FROM GOOD BUSINESS PRACTICE – "Hadlow's rebirth as a great college is strengthened by its commercial practicality."**
- BUT REMEMBER THE ORGANISATION'S PRIMARY BUSINESS – "Everything we do must tie into the educational experience of our students…"

There is a useful alliance too with the county's successful food and drink champion Produced in Kent, based on the college campus at Hadlow.

"Government funding has been more restricted and I see no reason why 'commerciality' and profitability should not co-exist with teaching and learning," argues Mark, clearly used to fighting his corner against those in the sector who take the opposite view.

"I'm convinced students here benefit from knowing they are involved in truly business-like operations, rather than a lab experiment, and I know our (college) peers have looked at and learned from how we do things."

The pragmatic approach has also brought the college back into the agricultural community; Mark believes it drifted apart from its grass roots before the turnaround.

"But we are now seen as a voice to deliver comment on the industry and its future," he said.

Indeed, it opened a state of the art eco-friendly Rural Regeneration Centre this year to act as a conference and meeting place for rural organisations as well as being a stand alone commercial enterprise.

Nevertheless, the college's primary function is not forgotten; energetic vice-principal Lynda Brown has helped drive up student numbers across all groups and Hadlow has adopted the Government-led Fresh Start initiative to attract second career entrants or people to return to agriculture after leaving it during leaner years.

And this year's 24 'outstanding' Ofsted gradings across 27 categories takes Hadlow to the highest echelon of the UK's 250-plus further education colleges – a long way from the bottom five per cent placing of 2003.

So, is Mark's job now done?

"I do get asked 'why are you still here? Why did you give up a City career?'" he admitted. "But I always wanted to do something that made a difference," adding that he had already shied away from one soft option professionally by declining the chance to run the family firm back in his home city of Sunderland.

And he clearly enjoys the rural life, with a home in Whitstable – although living at the Hadlow Estate during the week – and having recently started horse-riding again, as well as continuing to go on cross-country runs.

"I love being outdoors," he said.

He also enjoys driving, playing the piano and organ and classical singing when he has a moment.

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KCC see adult training as crucial for business survival during crunch

AT a time when staff and their skills are crucial to business survival, Kent County Council has turned up the volume on its adult training courses.

The authority argues that companies who leave employees in the dark risk collapse at a time when competitiveness is even more vital than usual. KCC's community learning and skills service has already helped thousands of people to improve their skills, qualifications, confidence and productivity and there is a surprising range of options available from administration to zookeeping.

A recent inspection by official education watchdog Ofsted confirmed the quality of the service too, but a sheaf of testimonials also speaks volumes.

P&O Ferries' manager Tim Whittaker helped his chef Andy Phillips improve his literacy skills and turned him into a much more productive employee.

Andy enrolled on a Level 1 Literacy course at Dover Skills Plus Centre, progressed to Level 2 and completed training in IT and his City & Guilds Workplace Trainer's Qualification.

LEARNING CURVE: KCC offer many courses

A delighted Tim said: "Andy's confidence and new skills mean he is far more productive and supportive as a manager. He now has such a good understanding of the Food Preparation and Cooking National Vocational Qualification paperwork that he is able to offer guidance to the trainee chefs."

And Chris Bailey, 46, from Maidstone, needed a formal literacy qualification before he attended the Skills Plus Centre in Maidstone.

Staff there helped Chris to improve his reading and writing skills and he secured a position as a porter with Morrisons supermarket.

A Morrisons spokesman said: "Chris has been a good addition to our team. He has proved himself to be willing, enthusiastic and always ready to help. His attendance has been spot-on regardless of the weather and he just gets on with the job."

KCC cabinet member for community services, Mike Hill, said: "We have worked hard to modernise and improve our adult education and KEY Training services in recent years and I was very pleased to read the overwhelmingly positive Ofsted report. It is vital everyone has the learning and training opportunities they need and we are committed to help residents keep learning throughout life."

The Ofsted report found the service offered a wide range of courses for all levels. It also praised the support for socially deprived learners saying that their needs are "particularly effectively met, impacting significantly on their life chances".

Inspectors were impressed by the much higher than normal return rate of responses as part of the assessment.

More than 5,000 individual students and 40 businesses told inspectors about their appreciation of the courses and tutors.

NEXT WEEK: BUSINESS WEEK SPOTLIGHT FOCUSES ON COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES AND FACILITIES

Get on right line and save yourself cash

CHOOSING the right mobile phone contract could save your business thousands of pounds a year and boost staff productivity too, ***writes Gary Wright***.

A recent survey suggested that staff with full internet and email access do up to 14 hours a week extra work – anyone can work anywhere with the latest smartphones, providing they can get a signal.

But picking the right phone to please staff can be problematic; for instance, touch sensitive screens may be all the rage, but many prefer the full Blackberry-style keyboard, especially when email and messages are literally key to the working day.

And despite media hype, the iPhone does not rule the roost: Apple might have sold more than 50 million iPhones worldwide, but Nokia sells almost that many mobiles monthly.

Nevertheless, Apple did change the market three years ago by offering a superbly engineered phone with a clear and intuitive touchscreen and then promoting specially written programmes or 'apps' to allow users to tailor the phone to their needs.

But many apps are novelties or of limited use and other operating systems are catching up; Microsoft has unveiled new phone software, while Google's Android system is now battling it out toe-to-toe with its rivals.

Android offers Apple-style simplicity plus apps, but anyone can write software for it and the Android app store doesn't have some of the restrictions imposed by Apple's iTunes.

Android can also run Flashplayer in web pages to watch web video – something that Apple can't do.

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Getting wise to Twitter and Co

THERE has been huge growth in business use of social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter over the past few years.

But many companies are still unaware of how best to reap the benefits of online communication messaging, says Dan Maudhub of Ashford-based Wonderful Creative, who will speak about the new media at the Archant KOS Media's Business Week Live show at the County Showground, Detling, near Maidstone, on November 10.

Mr Maudhub said there are still misconceptions about the best way to utilise online sites, adding: "I shall be talking about the benefits of these sites and how businesses can best use them – but I shall also be examining the pitfalls and the dangers.

"In recent years sites such as Facebook and Twitter have had an enormous impact and we have seen a great change in the way business is being conducted.

"They affect the relationship between a company and its clients, customer service and the two-way conversations which takes place in any business relationship. Businesses need to develop a greater awareness of how to make sites relevant to their needs," he said.

"Most companies do have a website – but how many are really aware of the potential that gives them?"

PageSuite®

Adding new ingredients to improve the media mix

NEW technology's ability to complement and combine with the printed world of magazines and other publications will be analysed at the forthcoming Business Week Live show.

Ben Edwards is marketing manager of Ashford-based Page Suite, a company that supplies those in the publishing business with digital software, such as page-turning applications to make reading online convenient and easy – Kent on Sunday itself pioneered use of the new technology.

But Mr Edwards said sophisticated new 'apps' (applications) was now allowing a much greater interaction between printed media and sophisticated new devices like the Apple iPhone and Blackberry.

"There are many ways businesses can use them to generate increased revenue, cut costs and reach new markets," he said.

The mobile aspect of communication is another area of expertise for Page Suite – a company which is keen to share its forward-thinking approach to other companies in the county and further afield.

Mr Edwards said the possibilities of state-of-the-art communication technology is something all businesses should prioritise, especially in Kent – one of the UK's most dynamic areas for economic growth and prosperity.

And he added: "It's important it can be demonstrated that the printed medium can combine with and complement digital and mobile technology.

"That is really the key to what our business is all about."

Satis House, 11 Elms Avenue, Ramsgate, Kent. CT11 9BW (Reg No 3211482)

Timeline

KOS Media sport takes a look at the highlights of all the sporting action from the last 50 years

1960 **50 YEARS AGO:** KENT manager Les Ames called for a dramatic cut in the number of county fixtures played each year, saying that cricket was a business and the huge financial losses it had sustained since the end of World War Two meant "something had to be done."

Ames claimed the only solution that could stave off bankruptcy would be for counties to play each other just once per season, ending the home and away arrangement and freeing up the schedule for a cup.

"I would like to see the MCC or some such body do something now and not in two or three years – when it may be too late," he said.

"My view is that we play too many county matches and if we are to recreate interest in the game I would like to see a cup competition inaugurated."

1985 **25 YEARS AGO:** THE boy described by former England all-rounder Trevor Bailey as the hardest hitter of a ball he'd seen since Mike Gatting, 17-year-old Trevor Ward, signed a one-year contract with Kent.

The Farningham-born batsman, who had starred for the England Schools side, said: 'I've been thinking about cricket since I was knee-high and hoping to make cricket my career."

Kent were also considering offering a deal to 18-year-old wicketkeeper Paul Farbrace, from Deal.

Dave Shearer scored a hat-trick for Gillingham in a 5-1 win against Swansea, for whom the former Arsenal and Aston Villa keeper Jimmy Rimmer kept goal. Shearer, 27, passed a late fitness test and admitted he was struggling with his ankle, but quipped, "I was hoping to get six!" Steve Butler celebrated signing a new two-year deal with Maidstone United by scoring both goals in an FA Cup fourth qualifying round tie with Bromley. Maidstone were drawn away to Fareham in the first round, while Dartford were drawn with Harry Redknapp's Bournemouth, who had knocked them out in a second round replay the previous season. Gillingham were paired with Northampton Town, managed by former Dartford boss Graham Carr.

2000 **10 YEARS AGO:** JOHN Inverarity was named new Kent coach, following the departure of John Wright to join the Indian national team.

Inverarity, who won six caps for Australia, was previously a coaching consultant at Kent and had also taught at Tonbridge School.

He said: "I am delighted to be involved in Kent cricket once again. I enjoyed my time with the club in 1988 and hope I can bring success to Kent next season."

Tony Cascarino was told he could keep his international caps by the Irish football federation, despite confessing in his autobiography that he was never actually eligible to play for them.

Will funding cuts cost sport in our schools?

Partnership future uncertain following spending review

By STEVE TERVET & DAVID PRITCHARD

THE decision to end central funding for School Sport Partnerships (SSP) has been met with bewilderment from staff who felt they were beginning to make genuine progress in the county.

The move, which involved ending the £160 million Government investment, was part of funding cuts announced last week in a bid to reduce the national debt, with a renewed focus on competitive sport.

It leaves a question mark over the network, whose remit was to increase participation and improve links between schools and clubs.

Critics of the plan accuse the Government of turning their back on school sport less than two years before London hosts the Olympic Games.

David Walton at the Thanet School Sport Partnership believes after five-and-a-half years it was beginning to make a difference, with all pupils taking part in some form of competition.

"People were quite cynical of the partnerships at first, but we had 500 people at our last awards ceremony and they were very positive about sport in schools," he said.

"What's the Olympic legacy – is it going to be an obese, unhealthy population or a sporting, competitive nation?

"All that happened was the PE departments introduced A-Level PE examinations to justify their existence, but exams aren't the be-all and end-all, it's about developing as an individual."

CHANGES: Minister for Sport, Hugh Robertson says success of SSPs has been patchy, and central funding had been transferred to headteachers for them to make decisions

Hugh Robertson, Minister for Sport and the Olympics, disagrees with the notion school sport will suffer.

The MP for Faversham and Mid Kent was not directly involved with the decision, which was made by the Department for Education, but stressed the only change was the source of the funding.

He said: "SSPs have not been cut. It's simply that central funding for them has ended. It has been transferred directly to the headteachers and it's up to them to make a decision.

"Every single school I have been to in Kent in nearly 10 years as an MP, the one thing teachers say is give us the power to sort out our own schools. I think it's possible where there are good ones headteachers will recognise it and keep it going."

Robertson also felt the success of SSPs had been "patchy", pointing to the latest School Sport Report, which found only one in five children played sport regularly against other schools.

The impact is unlikely to be felt in the same way across Kent.

Paul Hathaway, formerly school sport co-ordinator at the Judd School in Tonbridge, believes in some parts of the county the decision may not affect schools at all.

He said: "The partnerships were concerned with making things sustainable and a lot of schools have made those activities sustainable in their own way. A lot of schools in west Kent will maintain those activities under their own steam.

"Generally, the levels of sport in west Kent are pretty high, but that won't be the case everywhere."

Twickers not a big enough carrot

TWICKENHAM beckons once again as rugby's national cups return next weekend but Kent clubs are divided over the importance of the competitions.

With 15 of the county's sides still involved in the Intermediate Cup, Senior Vase and Junior Vase, there is a glory tale waiting to be written as the draw begins to open out.

However, a cup run is unlikely to come at the expense of success in the league, which the clubs unanimously claim is their ultimate goal for the season.

Sevenoaks travel to face Twickenham RFC in the Intermediate Cup next Saturday, having seen local rivals Tonbridge Juddians reach the semi-finals of last season's competition.

However, Oaks chairman Lee Adamson revealed several first XV players have chosen to miss the game and said any cup progress would simply be a bonus.

"If you win a few rounds, it suddenly starts to get more important but at this stage, it's just an interesting diversion from the league," he said. "The players look at the fixtures and they may use the cup weekends to do things other than rugby."

In the Senior Vase, which features clubs at London 3 South East level, Medway have a home tie against London South Africa.

Coach Taff Gwilliam admits his side are unlikely to go all the way to the final, but stressed the Vase did have its benefits.

CASHING IN: Medway hope to boost club finances with a decent Senior Vase run

He said: "We're keen to do well because there's prize money involved, but I tend to look more at the bigger picture. The Senior Vase gives us an opportunity to look at fringe players and we'll use the game to experiment with different things."

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Kent skipper says despite a couple of tough seasons ahead, the club will reap reward from St Lawrence redevelopment

'Return of RJ would be like new signing'

TOUGH times are upon us at Kent, but the start of the redevelopment of St Lawrence means we can begin to see some light at the end of the tunnel.

The next couple of years are going to be hard, both on and off the field, but without the ground development finally going ahead – and the cash flow into the club this will provide – then it would have been difficult to see how things could have moved forward. In truth, it would have been a desperate situation.

As it is, I am hoping and expecting the core strength of our current playing staff will be there for the start of next season, and we will also be looking to a number of talented younger players to step up their development and contribute on the field. What an opportunity they have to further their careers.

There is one other player who is working very hard to get back to full fitness, and he could be a very important cricketer for Kent come next April.

Robbie Joseph was one of the best bowlers around in English cricket when he first suffered the injury problems that have wrecked his last two seasons, and meant he has played only a handful of first-class games for us in that time.

'RJ' gained England Lions recognition after his last full season in 2008, in which he took 55 County Championship wickets in Division One and was our best bowler in all forms of the game. That England recognition was well deserved and fully justified after the way he bowled and had regularly troubled the best batsmen in the country.

If he can get himself fit for the start of next season – and there is no reason why not given that Nimmo Reid and the rest of the Kent physiotherapy staff are working a lot with him now that his shoulder injury has been properly sorted out – then it will be like having a new signing at the club.

I am looking forward to Robbie getting back to bowling as we know he can, because that would be massive for us. He's only 28 and, like Martin Saggers before him, the comparative lack of workload his body has taken in his early to mid-twenties means he could reap the benefits of that over the next five or six years.

He is a serious, proven, fast bowler and in the second division next year there will not be many better than him around if he gets himself fit. And, to be frank, the bloke also deserves a bit of good luck after all the injury frustration he has endured in the past couple of years.

DIGGING IN: Rob Key at the start of the ground redevelopment at St Lawrence

As for whether we can get an overseas signing in for next summer, or at least part of it, let me assure every Kent supporter we will certainly be exploring all the options.

When we first brought Wayne Parnell to the club he was relatively unknown and was tremendous value for money. Makhaya Ntini was also an excellent short-term signing last season, and even including what we paid him I think what we spent on overseas players last year was less than any other county.

We will be preparing for next season in the normal way, and expecting to be one of the most competitive clubs around. We might not have the depth in our playing staff to win all three competitions, but that does not mean to say we will be not be starting out in each of those competitions trying to win them.

Like a lot of counties do at the moment, I think you only assess things after you see how you fare in the early part of those competitions. With a lot of championship cricket likely to be played in the early weeks of the season, we will be aiming for a fast start in order to establish a promotion campaign and get back into Division One at the first attempt, as we did in 2009.

Finally, may I reiterate in this column just how privileged I feel to be given a benefit year by Kent in 2011. It is a great honour, and an interesting time for me at the moment as I join my benefit committee in planning for the year ahead. All in all, 2011 is going to be very challenging on many fronts.

• ***Rob Key, the Kent captain and former England batsman, is one of Kent on Sunday's regular sports columnists.***

LOOKING AHEAD: Rob Key says next season will give Kent's stars of the future the chance to impress
Pictures: ADY KERRY

Shepherd new Kent president

A FORMER Kent and West Indies all-rounder will take over as the county club's president for 2011.

John Shepherd (pictured) played 303 games for Kent, scoring 9,401 runs and claiming 832 wickets.

His career-best bowling performance came against Sussex at Maidstone in 1975 when he took 15 for 147, and he went on to claim 96 victims in 1968 and 92 in 1973.

Shepherd, who also played five Tests for the West Indies, takes over from Alister Dunning and will be officially introduced to the club's members at the AGM in March.

He said: "I am delighted to be named president of the club. I have enjoyed a wonderful association with Kent for many years so am thrilled and honoured by my appointment. I very much look forward to continuing to support Kent cricket during my year in office."

Camier fixed and back on track

LEON Camier has returned to the track less than two months after breaking a bone in his wrist.

The Aprilia World Superbike rider completed almost 40 laps of the Motorland Aragon circuit in Spain on the first of a three-day test session this week, setting the fifth fastest time.

Camier sustained the injury in an accident riding in Germany in September. It was originally hoped he would recover in time to compete in the final race of the season at Magny Cours in France earlier this month, but it was deemed too risky.

After returning to the track, the Ashford rider, who has signed a deal to stay at Aprilia for next season, was happy with his performance.

"I was pleased with how it all went," he said. "We knew Carlos Checa on the Ducati would be fast as they tested here not that long ago, but it's really encouraging to see how fast we compared to the others, especially considering my injury and how long I've been off the bike.

"We didn't try anything new with the bike or the settings, we just concentrated on learning the track as I've not ridden here before, and on seeing how my wrist was.

"It did get weaker as the day went on, but that's what we expected and it isn't anything to worry about. We'll continue to work on building up the strength in it and keep pushing."

After the Aragon test the team are due to head down under for a session at Phillip Island to work on the bike's set-up.

RECOVERY: Leon Camier has returned from a broken wrist
Picture: APRILIA

Hill setting the Tiger trap for 2011 Open

TOWERING PRESENCE: Tiger Woods at Royal St George's in 2003 with the Richborough Power Station cooling towers in the background

With just 197 days until The Open Championship makes an eagerly awaited return to the county, Kent on Sunday's chief sports reporter DAVID PRITCHARD caught up with the man in charge of bringing the tournament together

WHEN driving through sleepy Sandwich and out to Royal St George's, it is hard to imagine just how it could possibly cope with becoming the centre of the sporting universe.

Even after several visits it is easy to miss the venerable golf club's unassuming signpost, which will direct Tiger Woods and the rest of the world's top golfers to The Open Championship in Kent next year. But for four days next summer the area will be transformed under the glare of a global spotlight, with an estimated 180,000 spectators flocking to the east Kent coast and a global television audience peaking at 100 million.

On the face of it the organisational task is monumental, with a vast array of factors to address from the length of the rough to policing and transport.

The man charged with bringing all the threads together in time is the R&A's experienced championship director, David Hill. While it remains a formidable logistical effort, the success of previous Opens at Royal St George's makes life considerably easier.

"We've been here in 1981, 1985, 1993 and by 2003 I think all the agencies felt they had cracked it," he said. "The traffic plan worked particularly well, we had the right distribution of cars in the right fields, so it did work well. It was a little slow exiting on the final night, which is inevitable as everyone tries to leave at the same time, but apart from that we were very satisfied. There won't really be any modifications apart from a few road changes, which will improve the situation if anything.

Pictures: GETTY IMAGES

DRIVING FORCE: David Hill is the R&A's championship director

"The great thing about St George's is once you're in the pay gates there's acres of room. Compared with other Open Championship venues we can accommodate very large crowds here. There are a lot of natural viewing areas so it is a good spectator experience once you are on the golf course."

Work is well under way in other areas, to the extent that a group of American television broadcasters were on the course this week to plan their camera positions. The grandstands, which will house 17,000 spectators, have also been finalised.

Royal St George's is notable on the R&A's list of courses for The Open as being the only host away from the cluster of clubs in Scotland and the North West. The tournament is due to return around once a decade for the foreseeable future and Hill believes the location is part of its enduring appeal.

He said: "It's respected as being one of the finest golf courses in the world and I think that's the bottom line. The club is very keen to host it, as is everybody in Dover, Kent and the surrounding areas.

"It's good for the Open [to visit the south], at the end of the day it is held in Britain so it's good we have a venue in this part of the world. Unfortunately there's not another venue that can actually host the championship on the scale of infrastructure that we now require within the vicinity of London."

Neighbouring clubs, Prince's and Royal Cinque Ports, are both former hosts but have not held the championship since 1932. While Hill acknowledges the pair's pedigree, under existing circumstances the chances of a return remain remote.

"There would have to be a huge investment made," he said. "There's no doubt they are excellent golf courses, but whether they are quite good enough at this moment in time for an Open Championship is debatable. It's the infrastructure; to get all the traffic and people in there, that would be the challenge."

Kent on Sunday will be building up to The Open in the coming months with a series of features and news stories ahead of the prestigious tournament's return to the county on July 14.

Nat's summer of hockey success

AFTER a whirlwind summer which saw England's women win three medals in as many months, Natalie Seymour is looking forward to helping the side maintain its success next year.

The 24-year-old featured prominently as England finished third at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi earlier this month. It came shortly after picking up bronze medals at the World Cup and Champions Trophy earlier in the summer.

The Canterbury ladies defender won her 50th international cap while in India, but she is more pleased with the progress of the team as they build towards the London Olympics.

She said: "It's been an amazing summer, there have been times where we've been disappointed, but on the whole it's been very successful.

"We're pleased to be winning medals regularly and hopefully we can go one better next year and one better in 2012."

After a break from hockey, Seymour is due to make her playing return for Canterbury next weekend away to Leicester, before returning to England's centralised training programme later in November.

How Neil's career in touchdowns took off

By **FRED ATKINS**

IT WAS January 1987 when a 15-year-old schoolboy from Kent turned off the sound on his television set and pretended to commentate on the AFC Championship game between the Cleveland Browns and the Denver Broncos.

On Sunday, Neil Reynolds gets to commentate on the Broncos for real as part of the NFL's live broadcast from Wembley, as they take on the San Francisco 49ers.

By his own admission Reynolds, originally from Maidstone, has had the kind of career most people can only dream of, though he nearly took a more active role in the sport.

As a wide receiver he played for the Medway Mustangs (at Gillingham Anchorians' ground) and later for the Invicta Eagles and the Kent Exiles, then based in Tonbridge.

Reynolds was also a good enough kicker to get a trial for the NFL Europe's London Monarchs in 1996, getting down to the final two.

"At 45 yards we both scored so they moved us back five yards," Reynolds remembered. "I missed and he didn't."

His rival went to a training camp in Florida while Reynolds had to return to his day job as local reporter in Kent, not that he minded.

He said: "I did cover the odd flower show and village fete. But I'm not knocking it and I certainly don't regret the way things panned out.

COMMENTATOR: Neil Reynolds working at last year's play-off game between San Diego Chargers and the New York Jets

"In the last year I've commentated on three live NFL games and because I also wrote a book [Pain Gang], I got to interview one of the legends of the game, Joe Montana."

Given that Montana makes Sir Alex Ferguson look like Katie Price, this was something of a scoop.

Last week he spent a day at Wembley with former 49ers receiver Jerry Rice, one of the game's greatest ever players, and he was also present when his all-time hero, Miami Dolphins quarterback Dan Marino, was inducted into the Hall of Fame.

You can take the boy out of Kent however, but you can't take Kent out of the boy.

Having left the flower shows to join First Down magazine, Reynolds is now a full-time American Football journalist who works for both Sky and the BBC and acts as a consultant to the NFL, but he still lives in Walderslade and memorably described the Green Bay Packers – a club owned and run by fans – as "Ebbsfleet United on a much grander scale."

The pressure of his schedule means he doesn't get to see as many local games as he would like to, but Reynolds feels the Wembley games (this year will be the fourth in a row the NFL has staged a game in London) are restoring the sport's profile.

"In terms of playing I think we're seeing very good numbers," he says. "It's not just children of the 80s who follow it now and I think given enough exposure, people are always going to want to try it."

Which club will make the most of FA Cup run?

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

Kent teams bid for success in first-round proper

By DAVID PRITCHARD & STEVE TERVET

THERE will be more local interest than usual in the FA Cup first round proper next weekend as Kent football enjoys its best showing in almost half a century.

Not since the 1963/64 season have the county had five representatives still in the competition at this stage, when the now defunct Bexley United were among the quintet.

All of this season's ties are intriguing in their own right, but the pick of the games is undoubtedly the derby at Priestfield between Gillingham and Dover Athletic. The rivalry has been significantly spiced up with almost the entire League Two side's coaching set-up making the switch from Crabble to Medway this summer.

About 2,000 Whites fans are expected to make the trip, in what is the club's first appearance in the first round for eight years.

Gills boss Andy Hessenthaler, who left Dover in May, said: "It's a fantastic tie for Kent football. Dover are a great club, I spent three years there and enjoyed every minute of it. It's amazing how it's worked out, there were 80-odd teams we could have got and we end up with Dover."

Dover's best hope of taking something from the game may lie with Adam Birchall, who had scored 14 goals in eight games before this weekend. The striker, who scored a 19-minute hat-trick in Tuesday's 5-0 replay win against Farnborough, admitted the prospect of facing the Gills played a part in the side's performance.

Picture: SIMON HARRIS

HOPE: Hythe Town (main pic) go to Hereford, while Dover's Adam Birchall (above) takes his hot scoring form to Gillingham

He said: "There are only a few of us here now that worked under Hessy, but I know a lot have worked under [Ian] Hendon and Nicky Southall, so there was definitely a lot of motivation before the game. We were very calm and collected and it definitely seemed to show on the pitch."

Any neutrals will surely be backing Hythe Town, who are the first Kent League side to reach this stage since the 1950s. The lowest ranked team left in the competition drank their bar dry after beating Staines Town last weekend and will visit League Two side Hereford United.

Paul Markland, Town's chairman, is determined the club will savour the occasion.

"It's a once in a lifetime experience, everyone has their 15 minutes in the limelight and this is ours," he said. "It has put us on the map and associated the club with successful names, watching the draw on Sunday there was Brighton, Charlton, Southampton and Hythe – how fantastic."

The previous two ties should not overshadow Dartford, who welcome League Two high-fliers Port Vale to Princes Park. It is 21 years since the club last reached this stage and with an unbeaten home record this season, an upset is not out of the question.

Manager Tony Burman said: "I'm delighted for everyone involved, I'm pleased for the directors who do a lot of work here and I want them to have a great day."

Ebbsfleet United complete the group, with a tie away to Conference Premier leaders AFC Wimbledon which left boss Liam Daish grimacing.

He said: "It's a really tough draw. If you're going to go away, you probably want one of the really big sides. We've got a side who are going well, who play in front of big crowds and it's going to be tough."

Kent on Sunday will have reporters at each of the four FA Cup ties next weekend and you can keep up to date with their progress live by logging on to www.kentsport.co.uk from 2pm on Saturday.

Daish forced to embrace new transfer system

EBBSFLEET United chairman Phil Sonsara insists the controversial vote to ratify transfers will not drastically alter the way business is done at Stonebridge Road.

Supporters were largely dismayed when MyFootballClub members opted to take the final say on player transfers away from manager Liam Daish, but Sonsara believes the change will not be detrimental to the club's prospects.

The Fleet chief is confident Daish's decisions will get the backing of MyFC members, but accepted the 48-hour wait to sign players on an emergency basis could prove an obstacle.

Sonsara said: "They [MyFC] obviously want to be more involved but they're not going to go out and find the players – obviously Liam is the expert and everybody acknowledges that.

"The paperwork for a new player would be put through on a Friday so if we wanted to play them on the Saturday, there would be an issue, so there would have to be a short-term solution where it's resolved."

Daish advised members against voting in the ratification proposal, but while he remains opposed to the idea in principle, he has vowed to work alongside the scheme as the Fleet look to continue their fine run of form.

"It went against what I was saying but you move on," he said. "Anyone that knows me knows I'm passionate about my views but I will move on. I won't beat myself up or throw my toys out of the pram."

There is still significant animosity towards MyFC from sections of the Ebbsfleet support and Sonsara admitted tolerance was needed on both sides before the relationship between the two could strengthen.

He said: "The MyFootballClub people need to perhaps be aware of what happens on a day-to-day basis, some of them need to come down more often and look at what is actually going on at the ground.

"I think the fans, locally, also have to appreciate the hundreds of thousands of pounds the MyFC membership has also put into the club. My view is I'm still trying to pull people together to make it all work."

Picture: DAVE PLUMB

PASSIONATE: Liam Daish

Darts boss slams fans' Gross jibes

CRITICISM of outgoing Dartford defender Adam Gross by supporters on the club's online forum has sparked a stinging rebuke from manager Tony Burman.

Gross, who struggled for form early in the season, was left out of the Darts squad for last Saturday's trip to Leiston before being shown the Princes Park exit door 48 hours later.

However, Burman leapt to the 24-year-old's defence after a handful of fans suggested Gross had only been a regular last season because there were no other options at left-back.

The former Barnet and Grays player was a fixture in the Darts side which romped to the Ryman Premier title, and Burman was quick to set the record straight on his contribution to the promotion run.

Picture: ASPORTSHOTZ.CO.UK

GROSSLY UNFAIR: Fans have criticised Adam Gross

"Adam Gross played every single game last year and helped this club get promoted," Burman said. "What some of the guys on the forum said about him was a disgrace.

"They turn round and say he wasn't worth his shirt, but Adam did great for us. He was upset when I left him out last Saturday, he made some wrong decisions and it cost him, but last year he was excellent."

Gross, who has represented both England and Wales at semi-professional level, started 87 games during his time as a Dartford player, scoring three times.

Cup cash boost for Whites' squad

PROFITS made from Dover Athletic's lucrative FA Cup run will be invested in the playing squad, promises club chairman Jim Parmenter.

The Whites have scooped prize money of £24,500 for their run so far, which has taken them into the first round proper for the first time in eight years.

Competition rules which see clubs share the gate receipts mean even a defeat in next weekend's eagerly awaited first round meeting at Gillingham will see the non-league club receive a significant financial boost.

Picture: SIMON HARRIS

INVESTMENT: Jim Parmenter says cup income will pay for new players

With Dover looking to go one better than last season's second-placed finish in Conference South, Parmenter, who took over the reins at Crabble in 2005, made it clear the run would be used to strengthen the side.

He said: "Everything we make above our expenditure will go back into the squad. That will set us up nicely if we get a good gate at Gillingham and who knows, even a replay. That will all go back into the team and finance the push for promotion.

"Since I've been here it is certainly the biggest game. I'm really pleased for the club, the supporters and the players."

• ***Dover have been allocated 2,400 tickets for Saturday's game at £15 an adult, £10 over-65s and £5 for under-16s. Call the Dover ticket office on 01304 822373.***

Pictures: ADY KERRY

SEARCH: Rob Key says Kent will explore all options in their bid to sign an overseas player

Overseas player on list, says Key

EXCLUSIVE

KENT skipper Rob Key says the club will be doing all it can to try and bring an overseas player to St Lawrence next season.

Writing in his exclusive column for Kent on Sunday, Key reveals that the county are "exploring all the options" in their bid to sign an overseas player, likely to be a bowler, after the club lost paceman Amjad Khan to Sussex.

He said: "As for whether we can get an overseas signing in for next summer, or at least part of it, let me assure every Kent supporter we will certainly be exploring all the options.

"When we first brought Wayne Parnell to the club he was relatively unknown and was tremendous value for money. Makhaya Ntini was also an excellent short-term signing last season, and even including what we paid him I think what we spent on overseas players last year was less than any other county."

• ***Turn to page 85 to read the Kent captain's column.***

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ON COURSE

Royal St George's primed to test world's best when Open returns next year, says R&A chief

EXCLUSIVE

By **DAVID PRITCHARD**

A LEADING tournament official has given his backing to the excellent condition of Royal St George's as preparations for next summer's Open Championship intensify.

The oldest of the sport's four major tournaments makes its 13th visit to the club in Sandwich Bay next July after an eight-year absence.

The R&A, which organises the high-profile event, has been in close contact with the historic Kent club since it was announced as 2011 hosts three years ago. Members of its championship team now make weekly visits to keep the project on track.

While a host of other logistical factors are still to be finalised, the club itself is deemed to be in great shape to host the world's finest players.

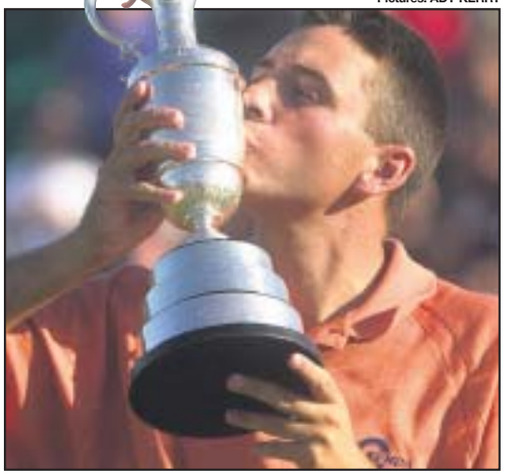
David Hill, the R&A's championship director, is delighted with the standard of the course, which has undergone only minor alterations since the 2003 Open.

He said: "We're very happy, the bunkers are all being riveted and everything's being done to ensure the fairways are running. Of course we're a little bit in the hands of the weathermen as to whether the rough will be light or heavy.

"We actually haven't made that many changes. The course was a great test here the last time, Ben Curtis won on one-under-par, so in that sense it was a very good test of golf and there's no real need to make it a lot more difficult."

• ***See inside for the full interview with one of golf's most powerful men.***

Pictures: ADY KERRY



JUST CHAMPION: Ben Curtis kisses the Claret Jug after his shock victory at Royal St George's in 2003

Scouts circle around new Gills teen ace

AN EXCITING Gillingham teenager dubbed by staff as 'the next Matt Jarvis' is attracting interest from a host of big names, with Manchester United and Arsenal among the clubs sending scouts to youth games.

Ashley Miller only turned 16 in September and has just broken into the Gills' under-18s, but his performances are attracting rave reviews.

The lively forward, who has been at Priestfield since he was seven, has impressed to such an extent he was expected to be named among the substitutes for the first-team's trip to Northampton Town yesterday.

Darren Hare, Gillingham's head of youth, also brought through Jarvis, now in the Premier League with Wolves, and believes his latest prospect is even better.

He said: "I remember being here when Jarvis was and for me he's a better player than Matt, he's ahead of him in his development. Ashley has no fear, he's level-headed.

"All the big guns are here and they come on a regular basis, they just follow him around. We don't want to lose him like with Ryan Bertrand and Luke Freeman in the past, we're hoping he just wants to play for Gillingham, so even if his head does get turned, he realises he's in the right place."

The club have not received any offers, but it is reminiscent of Freeman's situation three years ago. The striker was 15 when he made his first-team debut and within three months had signed for Arsenal.

Gills boss Andy Hessenthaler has monitored the Dover Grammar School pupil's progress closely in recent weeks and has no qualms about putting him in the first-team.

He said: "I've seen him a few times in the youth team, he's the youngest in the team and he has an affect - he can win a game. He's young but I think he can handle it, he's pretty much got everything as far as I'm concerned."

INTEREST: Gills forward Ashley Miller is attracting interest from big clubs

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